

Hafa Adai!

CNMI wins 38 medals in Guam CHamoru competition. **PAGE 6**

More NMC students pass NNAAP exam. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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'Manila trip was no junket'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Manila trip of some lawmakers to last week's ASEAN Gaming Summit should not be mistaken as a junket as they were able to speak

» **Yumul takes full responsibility for Manila casino trip**
» **Camacho says IPI blacklisted in international gaming**

with industry leaders who are familiar with the gaming industry here in the CNMI and gleaned some information, including that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC' is blacklisted in international gaming.

See **TRIP** on Page 4

Gas prices up 15 cents

After just a week from the last gas price rollback, the CNMI saw a 15-cent increase in fuel prices yesterday afternoon, with Mobil Oil Marianas leading the way around 2pm yesterday afternoon. Shell Marianas is

See **GAS** on Page 4

'Saipan landfill Cell No. 1 now at 80%

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Public

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
184

Works secretary Ray N. Yumul said DPW's Solid Waste Division needs attention as the Saipan landfill's Cell No. 1 is now about 80% full.



Yumul

"It will need to be capped, similar to [what was done with] the old Puerto Rico dump, now called the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park," said Yumul during the Senate Executive Ap-

See **LANDFILL** on Page 4

Senate confirms Staffler, 4 others



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, right, flank Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres, second from left; Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan, center; and Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive Ross S. Manglona, second from right; after Palacios administered their oaths of office yesterday afternoon at the Office of the Governor's conference room.



Staffler



Igisomar

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the nomination of former representative Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler to serve as secretary of the CNMI Department of Labor, as well as the appointment of four others

See **SENATE** on Page 4

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

A total of 125 JROTC cadets from four CNMI JROTC programs take part of the four-day Leadership Training from March 23 to 26, 2023, at the Saipan Southern High Schools campus.

Story on Page 5.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



INSIDE



BUSINESS

A clean, no-frills laundromat with brand new washers and dryers has opened in Koblerville.

PAGE 11



NATION

The Nashville shooter legally bought seven weapons in recent years and hid the guns.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Visitors flock to see Michelangelo's David sculpture in Florence, following an uproar in Florida.

PAGE 15



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Local

Cabrera in Fiji for animal health training

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lauren Cabrera, who is the president of Guam Animals in Need and founder of Saipan Humane Society, is in Fiji for a World Organisation for Animal Health workshop training.

Cabrera, who now resides on Saipan, was invited by Guam's territorial veterinarian, Dr. Mariana Turner, to represent Guam at the workshop,

while also unofficially representing the CNMI.

According to Cabrera, the training, called PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for the Pacific Islands, "conducts guidance and support for setting international standards of livestock health and production, animal legislation, animal welfare, and more. The conference is very livestock health specific, and focused on the Pacific

Islands—basically, how can we maximize the health and production of our livestock given the limited resources of our islands."

Cabrera said she is learning how to analyze gaps in animal health services, and how to work toward finding realistic solutions specific to the Pacific Islands. She said "eight other islands have no resident veterinarian and rely [on] trained animal health of-

ficers and "paravets" (veterinary technicians)."

While there, she is discussing the prospect of hosting a paravet training specific to livestock in the Pacific Islands in conjunction with Turner, "in efforts to support access to healthcare for our ranchers. This is only in the very beginning stages of discussion, but I hope to have more info soon."

Overall, she said, she is

meeting with international experts in animal health specific to livestock health and production. As to how the training is going so far, she said "It is super eye-opening and I am excited to not only help dogs and cats in the community, but also help ranchers as well in the future by filling gaps in animal health care in the region."

The training is from March 28 to March 31, 2023. There are 17 islands represented, including host island Fiji, American Samoa, the Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, and more.

According to the WOA website, their mission is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lauren Cabrera is in Fiji for a PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for the Pacific Islands being conducted by the World Organisation for Animal Health. She is analyzing gaps in animal health services and hopes to help ranchers, along with her services to dogs and cats in the community.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Brooke

Brooke is a beautiful 1-year-old female dog who is in search of forever home and is sure to make great addition to any family.

This sweet pup was found as a stray, wandering the streets alone and scared. Fortunately, a kind-hearted animal lover found her and brought her to the May-Dog shelter. Since then, Brooke has been patiently waiting for loving family to come and take home, and she will wiggle her whole body every time people visit or volunteer at the shelter and walk past her kennel.

Despite her rough start in life, Brook is a happy and friendly dog who loves to play and cuddle. She is a medium-sized dog with soft, silky fur and beautiful brown eyes that will melt your heart.

Brooke enjoys going for walks, runs, and hikes. She is full of energy and would be an excellent companion for someone who enjoys an active lifestyle. However, she also loves to relax and snuggle up with her humans after a long day of play.

Brooke has a very sweet and affectionate personality and loves people of all ages. She is good with other dogs and could potentially live with a furry sibling. However, she has not been tested with cats, so a home without feline friends may be best for her.

Brooke is a wonderful dog who deserves a loving family to call her own. With her playful personality and loyal nature, she is sure to bring joy and happiness to any home. If you are looking for a furry companion, consider opening your heart and your home to Brook. You won't regret it!

If you are interested in adopting Brooke and giving her the loving home she deserves, don't hesitate to contact the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido for more information. She would make a great addition to any family!

Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS). You can also make your way to the shelter to check out more dogs available for adoption!



Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

NMC student to represent NMI in Health Equity AI/ML research, training program

Northern Marianas College student Maritoni Duarte has been selected to participate in the Health Equity Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Research and Training program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa. She will represent the CNMI alongside two other students from American Samoa and the Marshall Islands.

The HEART program supports undergraduates and graduates in biomedical, health, and biology-related programs to enhance their knowledge and skills in data science techniques, methods, and projects. Students were tasked with surveying and exploring health equity questions that pertained to ensuring equal access to healthcare for all individuals.

Maritoni is currently focused on obtaining data that will compare the need for access to mental health care in the CNMI to that of other territories and the State of Hawaii. With her DataCamp training, she has been

able to analyze data using Python and identify the significant role medical coverage has in correlation with seeking assistance in healthcare. She is also examining whether the stigma surrounding "mental health" in the CNMI impacts individuals' willingness to seek help.

"We are proud to have Maritoni represent the CNMI in the HEART program. Her work on understanding the factors that affect access to mental health care will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the local community," said Dr. Barbara Hunter, interim director of NMC's School of Business.

The HEART program will provide Maritoni with valuable research and training opportunities that will enable her to further her studies and make meaningful contributions to the field of health equity. (NMC)



Duarte



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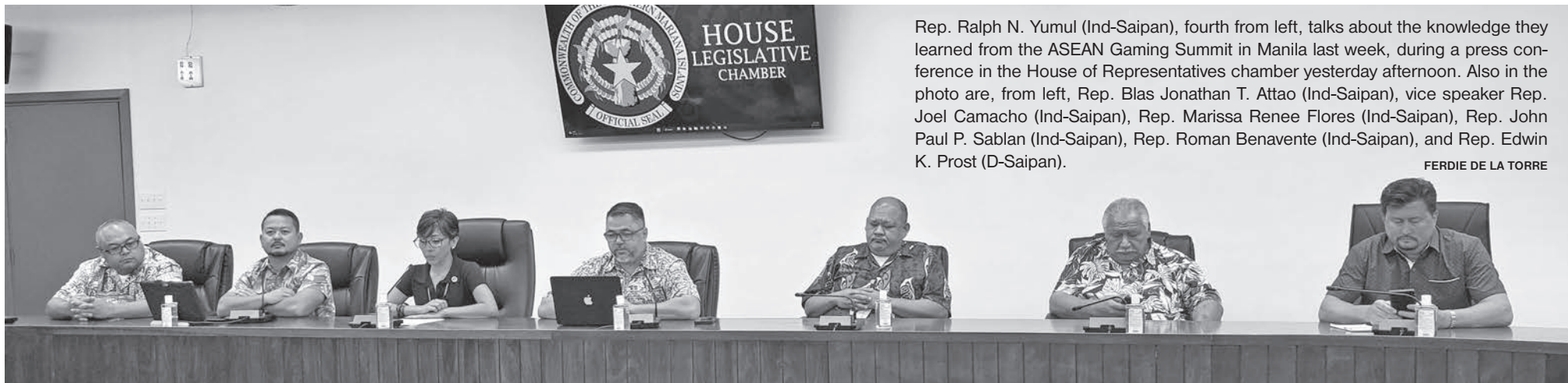
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Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), fourth from left, talks about the knowledge they learned from the ASEAN Gaming Summit in Manila last week, during a press conference in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday afternoon. Also in the photo are, from left, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Edwin K. Prost (D-Saipan).

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

TRIP

From Page 1

That's according to House vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), who attended the summit in his capacity as a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Gaming.

In a news briefing yesterday to report on the summit, committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) also said he takes full responsibility for bringing himself and most committee members with him to the Manila gaming summit, which he described as an effort to become more familiar with the issues related to gaming in the region and specific solutions to local situation.

Seven lawmakers attended the three-day summit held at the Manila Marriot Hotel from March 21 to 23. They are Yumul, Camacho, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

Separately, Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said they did not join the summit for personal matters, but support their colleagues who participated in the gaming conference.

Yumul said that, being also the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, he and the members all understand the need to be cautious and not waste resources.

"We, as elected officials cannot stand by and hope and pray and expect solutions to come to us," Yumul said.

He said as House members, they are constantly criticized for inaction and that they all know the situation that they are in, and it will not get any better unless they take action and do something about it. "We need to come up with solutions to our problems," Yumul said.

He pointed out that in terms of rebuilding the CNMI economy, they need to be proactive. Yumul said they can't sit and do nothing and instead always look for ways to jumpstart CNMI's gaming industry, tourism,

and economy. He said they are looking for revenue generating ideas and can't afford to wait.

Yumul disclosed that it was not the first summit that he'd attended as chairman of House Gaming Committee as he also participated one in the 21st Legislature in Manila when the Saipan casino was still in operation.

He said last week's summit was different in that they got many answers about Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, online gambling, junkets, and current trends gaming in Asia.

Depending how the community feels about the gaming industry and the directions the CNMI is heading, they may need to amend the Saipan casino law (Public Law 18-56), he added. Yumul said this will not happen overnight as he stressed the need for community involvement.

He said they decided to join the Manila summit way ahead or before Gov. Arnold I. Palacios issued a directive to implement austerity measures for some employees under the Executive Branch.

He said their hotel room was not a luxury one and that the conference fee of \$2,500 for each participant was waived for the CNMI. Yumul said they explained to the summit organizer in January about the situation of the CNMI so the conference fee was waived.

"We all used office funds," he said.

Yumul said he believes the Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners were notified about the summit, but he does not know why no commissioner participated.

House vice speaker Joel Camacho underscored the importance of this trip as they learned so much.

"We had the opportunity to meet with industry leaders on gaming and get a better understanding of how gaming works, what can work for our region," Camacho said.

He said they learned about a joint partnership or type of regulator and an operator type of casino in the Philippines that actually works on the local scale. Camacho said maybe it's more feasible for the CNMI to open three small-sized casinos.

The vice speaker said the Manila trip was an international conference where many stakeholders attended,

and it was a great deal for industry service leaders, former legislators, and people that are experts in the industry, and where they learned some other interesting facts, including reports that IPI is blacklisted in international gaming.

To get better insights on how things work for the CNMI moving forward, they have to understand that a lot of programs in the Commonwealth are tied into gaming at this moment, Camacho said.

"Our economy is dependent on that. It is important for us, even myself, as an officer of the Legislature to go, to get a better view on how we shape policies moving forward and how we can better help our people and help our programs like [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], public safety," he said.

Camacho stressed the importance of being aggressively proactive in the effort to revive the CNMI's economy.

Flores said the current situation with the CNMI's gaming industry is a testament to how bad it is right now and there is no denying that. She believes that IPI is a terrible company and the Commonwealth Casino Commission has horrible leadership.

"I am not being personal, but the leadership of the commission did not regulate well or adequately understand the consequences of implementing substandard regulations," she said.

To progress from this point, every leader needs to be informed, she added.

The lawmaker said they cannot all be experts, but they can do due diligence to understand the experts' advice and ask questions. "We can hold conversations on relevant issues if we are not on the same page," she said. "So from this standpoint, if the trip was worth it, absolutely!"

Sablan said that, as a member of the Gaming Committee and chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, he took it upon himself to "learn more and find ways to resolve and revise the gaming industry that we have here in the 3rd Senatorial District."

He pointed out that the Palacios-Apatang administration wants to pivot the CNMI away from its reliance on the Chinese tourism market, and what they learned on this summit is

that the Chinese market is a big market for gaming.

Attao said that, although he did not join the summit as he had a personal obligation to attend to, he believes that Yumul and the committee members gained knowledge from that conference that they can present to people.

"We can revisit specific legislations that have been produced so we can move forward," Attao said.

Propst, who also did not join the trip, said he looks forward to knowing what Yumul and his colleagues learned at the summit, particularly because of the difficulty they had in the Legislature in trying to obtain access to information from the CCC. In fact, he said, the previous 22nd House of Representatives was considering an oversight hearing on the casino.

SENATE

From Page 1

for various Cabinet positions.

With eight senators voting "yes" to adopt the recommendations of the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, Staffler was confirmed as Labor secretary, Mary Margaret "Maggie" Santos Sablan as Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary, Sylvan Olopa Igisomar as Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary, Ross Hugh S. Manglona as Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive, and Anthony C. Torres as Department of Corrections commissioner.

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the EAGI Committee, said that Staffler has demonstrated at her confirmation hearing her commitment to lead in her capacity as Labor secretary and to learn and grow in the department, given the short time given her when she was appointed to the post.

On Sablan's nomination, Babauta said the appointee is a retiree and actually grew up in DCCA. Babauta said there was no impediment in terms of Sablan's background, or her educational and professional standings. She said everyone who testified at the confirmation hear-

Propst said the CCC had to decline that, because of the ongoing litigation between CCC and IPI.

"We cannot get answers because they always [cite] the litigation," he said.

Propst said there are concerns about the cost of the Manila trip, but the cost of that trip is far less than a first-class trip of a former governor and the former first lady on a roundtrip to Honolulu. The lawmaker was obviously alluding to former governor Ralph DLG Torres and his wife, Diann Torres.

Propst said his colleagues spent their own office budget for that summit.

He said the fact that IPI is blacklisted was surprising and that they did not hear that information from the CCC.

ing supported Sablan's nomination. The EAGI Committee unanimously recommended Sablan's nomination, Babauta said.

With respect to Igisomar's nomination, she said the appointee practically grew up at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is under DLNR. Babauta said Igisomar attained higher education in the field that he loves—in fisheries and oceanic studies. She said the committee has found no impediments to delay his confirmation.

On Manglona's nomination, Babauta said what struck her as interesting during the confirmation hearing was the appointee's confidence in running and being able to lead the Indigenous Affairs Office to levels that they probably will never see or have not seen in the past.

She said Manglona's confidence in using federal grants to run the office is the type of leadership that they are looking for—resourceful and doing what they are asked for.

As for Torres' appointment, Babauta said the nominee has served his entire career in the federal Bureau of Corrections, and his experience, demeanor, and professionalism during the confirmation hearing demonstrated his integrity.

She noted that they also heard from DOC employees how they have longed for true leadership and that Torres fits that position.

LANDFIL

From Page 1

pointments and Government Investigations Committee's confirmation hearing on his nomination to serve as DPW secretary.

He said it will cost DPW over \$4.5 million to cap the landfill.

"My concern is that my office is constantly being inundated with requests for tipping fee waivers from government offices and municipalities," he said.

This loss of income impacts the ability of the government to build up funds to properly close, expand, and manage the landfill cells and transfer stations, Yumul said.

He said he needs to remind these government departments and agencies that they have an obligation under Title 40 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations to protect the environment.

At the hearing, Yumul received overwhelming support for his nomination from several DPW officials, government officials, and members in the community.

GAS

From Page 1

expected to follow suit today.

As of yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas now charges \$5.269 per gallon of its Extra Fuel from \$5.119. Mobil's Supreme fuel went up to \$5.719 from \$5.66. Its diesel prices remain the same at \$5.739.

The last price increase was in Jan-

uary when fuel reached \$5.31. Recently, the CNMI has seen a steady decline in gas prices with the latest rollback just March 22.

A 50-year-old motorist said he is surprised at the fuel increase when it's been decreasing the past month. He said he now has to be strict with his daily commute once again. He hopes the increase will be temporary and decrease again soon. (*Leigh Gases*)

NMI's JROTC cadets take part in 2023 spring camp

A total of 125 cadets from the four Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps programs in the CNMI participated in the four-day Cadet Leadership Challenge spring camp that was held at the Saipan Southern High School campus and American Memorial Park.

This year's CNMI JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge spring camp, also known as Camp Unity, was hosted by Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion from March 23 to 26, 2023, and included a museum tour, American Memorial Park activities (bird watching, name rubbing, intro and film, and exhibit tour), station activities (leaders reaction course, rope bridge and knot tying, first aid, and land navigation), sport activities, and a drill competition called Tap-Out.

The second day included activities at the American Memorial Park as well as a museum tour and then a bus tour to the Last Command Post, Veterans Cemetery, and Banzai Cliff.

The CNMI Brigade was divided into three groups for the activities, with 45 minutes between rotations. The first group had two stations: Intro & Film (10-minute and 20-minute documentary) and museum tour. The second round of stations included Court of Honor, Marianas Memorial, and break. Names were rubbed at two stations: the Court of Honor and the Marianas Memorial. The third group had only one station: bBird watching, then rotated to the other stations.

The cadets boarded a Tasi Tour bus bound for the Marpi Last Command Post around 1pm. Following that, they were given a brief history of the location and led on a tour around the grounds by a park ranger. Following the Last Command Post, cadets were brought to Banzai Cliff and the Veterans Cemetery, with a narrator from each bus providing a brief history of the location.

"JROTC Camp is an excellent opportunity to meet with other cadets from all high schools and to represent our school," said C/CSM Andres Muna, command sergeant major of the Ayuyu Battalion.

Day 3 of camp was held at Saipan Southern High School, where the entire brigade participated in training that included land navigation, leaders reaction course, rope bridge/knot tying, and first aid. The first station was rope bridge/knot tying, which was led by the Stallion and Buck battalions (Tinian and Rota

High School). The second station was learning how to read a lensatic compass and their pace count, which was led by

the Ayuyu Battalion (Kagman High School). The third station was the leaders reaction course, which was led by the Dol-

phin Battalion (Marianas High School). The fourth station was first aid, which was led by the Manta Ray Battalion (Saipan

Southern High School). The American Red Cross demonstrated proper cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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INACHA'IGEN FINO' CHAMORU 2023

CNMI wins 38 medals in Guam CHamoru competition



Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School student Caysa E. Marchadesch won first place in the 3rd to 5th Grade Division for her beautiful interpretation of this year's theme in the of the Yiniga/Drawing contest.



The Marianas High School delegates stand outside the University of Guam Field House before their award-winning performances.

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RFP23-CHCC/CGC-PMHCA-010
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 31st, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING"

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CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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1178 Hinemlu' St. Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
USDA Grant Meeting
Esther Muna, CEO

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, is hereby giving notice that the Division of Grants & Financial Integrity (DGFI) is scheduled to meet specifically for the U.S. Department of Agriculture grant funding on Thursday, April 6, 2023, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the DGFI Office, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Welcome and Introduction
- Review of USDA Grant Applications
- Community Input and Comments
 - Economic and Environmental Impact
 - Service Area
 - Alternatives to the Projects
 - Other
- Miscellaneous

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grant Application Review Process
- Others

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested individuals are welcome to attend. Should you need further information, please contact the Division of Grants & Financial Integrity Office at 234-8950 ext. 3451.

The CNMI delegation won 13 gold medals, another 13 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals at the CHamoru Language Competition, called *Inacha'igen Fino' CHamoru*, that was held at the University of Guam on March 13-14.

This year's delegation from the CNMI—composed of 208 students from Saipan, Tinian, Rota—brought home a total of 38 medals, showcasing their proficiency, knowledge, creative expression, and artistry of the CHamoru language, visual, and performing arts.

Hundreds of students from Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam gathered at the UOG for the competition, which had the theme, *I Fino' CHamoru: Gi Minenhalom Taotao Tāno gi Inabiban Hinemlo' yan Grāsia* (The CHamoru Language: Through the Wisdom of the Indigenous People in Praising Healing and Grace).

This year's delegation from the CNMI was the largest in the history of the competition and were accompanied by 50 teachers, coaches, and chaperones from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It was also the return of the first face-to-face competition since the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020.

A delegation of 18 Marianas High School students showed their dedication and determination by balancing daily practices with their schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and personal lives.

Guided by longtime POLKSAI Chamorro Club advisers and husband-and-wife educator team, Anita and Alvin Sablan, CCLHS educator and POLKSAI co-adviser Candice Muña, and Guma Mā'gas Luis John "LJ" Castro, students practiced every morning before class, during lunch hour, after school, every Tuesday and Thursday evening and every Saturday for over two months.

Three students lost their grandparents within a month before the competition, yet these students were encouraged to not give up with the support of their families, classmates, teachers, coaches, and school administrators.

Despite the struggles, these students persisted and continued to show up for practice. Ultimately, the MHS students dominated the high school categories in Guam, garnering a total of seven medals across six categories.

"The dedication that we all put in throughout this whole preparation for the competition shows how much we are trying to keep our language alive," said Tyler Sasamoto, a freshman at MHS.

Mandy Tenorio, a senior, added, "And our hard work really paid off."

Muña said the student's performances truly reflects the dedication of the entire community to keeping the Chamorro language and culture alive. She said all students who participated in this competition also brought home pride and joy to their families, schools, the CNMI Public School System, the Chamorro and Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies Department, and the entire Commonwealth.

Forty Hopwood Middle School students represented the largest CNMI school delegation in the competition. They, were led by CCLHS educator Donald Mendiola, Vic Cabrera, and Rebecca Sablan.

Besides MHS and Hopwood, the CNMI delegation also included students from Kagman High School, Hopwood Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, San Vicente Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, Tinian Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Kagman High School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School, and Chacha Ocean View Middle School.

Angelina Fitial, a CCLHS teacher at Tinian Elementary School, said that 2023 was a year to celebrate the accomplishments of the CNMI in keeping the Chamorro language and heritage alive.

"This year was the best year for all CNMI students. Everyone was a winner. Standing up in front of everyone was pretty tough but they did it," she said. (PR)



The Kagman High School delegation poses for a photo after Oceana Teigita won gold in Rinisādan Po'ema.



Hopwood Middle School students won two gold medals in Tinaitai Koru and Lālai and a silver medal in Rinisādan Po'ema with the guidance of teachers, Donald Mendiola, Vic Cabrera, and Rebecca Sablan.

Saipan Pacific Lions Club cleans up Marine Beach in Kagman

Members of the Saipan Pacific Lions Club once again gathered last March 25, 2023, to serve the community of Kagman as part of their monthly commitment.

The club, which has adopted the Marine Beach for routine maintenance, repainted the graffitied pavilion and planted 14 calamansi seedlings beside the road adjacent

to the beachside. Other members who came early did an early morning cleanup drive. They gathered a lot of trash alongside the beach.

“Doing our monthly tasks by maintaining the pavilion, which SPLC has adopted, is a fulfillment, somehow minimizing, if not eradicating, pollution,” the group said in a

Facebook post.

The cleanup was followed with a fellowship, with lots of food to share and enjoy.

“Thanks to all of you who came and were part of this event, most especially to [club president] Boyet Entico Escobar, for your leadership,” the Facebook post added. *(Saipan Tribune)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Pacific Lions Club gather at Marine Beach in Kagman as part of their monthly commitment to clean the area.

More NMC students pass NNAAP exam

Four students of Northern Marianas College’s Nursing Assistant program—Rose-Vie Querijero, Seann Toca, Mayrienne Subang, and Abbygail Manuel—have recently achieved a significant milestone in their nursing careers by successfully completing the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Exam. This exam is a crucial step toward becoming a certified nursing assistant, and passing it demonstrates that these students have the necessary skills and knowledge to provide quality care to patients.

derstand the nursing field.

“I wanted to be a CNA to help strengthen my confidence when interacting with patients and expand my time in training and clinicals,” Manuel said.

As a certified nursing assistant, Manuel plans to gain

ang said. “I learned a multitude of valuable information from them and had a great experience throughout the program. I would also like to express my gratitude to Andrew Mendiola and my classmates as they made my time in the program enjoyable.”

Following her certification, Subang will continue her education to become a registered nurse while working as a CNA. Like Manuel and Subang, Toca also entered into the CNA training program to gain experience and to better prepare for a nursing career.

“I wanted to get some experience on what it is like to work in the medical field,” Toca said.

Toca’s mother, who was a registered nurse in the Philippines, said she was his biggest inspiration.

“I would like to thank my parents for supporting me in my career and I would also like to thank Johnny and Rosa Aldan for guiding me in my path to become a CNA.”

For more information about NMC’s nursing assistant program, email Aldan at rosal.aldan@marianas.edu or call 237-6744. *(NMC)*



Manuel

Subang

Toca

The NNAAP exam is an industry certification developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to measure competency in nurse aide skills. To prepare for the NNAAP, the four underwent a rigorous 10-week training course hosted by the college’s Nursing Department in 2022.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rose-Vie, Seann, Mayrienne, and Abbygail on passing the NNAAP Exam and becoming certified nursing assistants,” said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. “Their hard work and dedication have paid off, and they should be proud of this incredible achievement. I have no doubt that they will make a positive impact on the lives of countless patients.”

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated the four on their achievements.

“I am thrilled to congratulate Rose-Vie, Seann, Mayrienne, and Abbygail on their outstanding achievement in passing the NNAAP exam and becoming certified nursing assistants,” Aldan said. “This is a testament of putting ‘high value of meeting standards’ to be a [CNA]. As they embark on their careers as nursing assistants, I have no doubt that they will bring a high level of professionalism and compassion to their work. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.”

Manuel, a current student of NMC’s nursing program, said she enrolled in the CNA training to help her better un-

more experience at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

“I would like to thank my parents for their utmost support, my preceptors and the providers for involving me in a professional setting to assist in providing safe and quality patient care, my instructors for preparing me for the NNAAP exam, and lastly, my fiancé for your lasting words of encouragement,” Manuel added.

Subang is grateful to NMC’s nursing faculty for providing her with a “rewarding experience.”

“I would like to thank Rosa and Johnny Aldan for being marvelous instructors,” Sub-

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW23-RFP NO.: 42300059

SUBMISSION DATE: May 02, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Department of Public Works Planning Road Condition and Flood Hazard Mapping Project”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 30, 2023** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **April 20, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 207 Building Code Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 27, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

/S/ PATRICK C. GUERRERO
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (GAR)

Bank of Hawai'i Corporation			
BANK OF HAWAII CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION			
At the Close of Business December 31, 2022 (dollars in thousands)			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Interest-Bearing Deposits in Other Banks	\$ 3,724	Deposits	\$ 20,615,696
Funds Sold	81,364	Securities Sold Under	
Investment Securities	8,258,962	Agreements to Repurchase	725,490
Loans Held for Sale	1,035	Other Debt	410,294
Loans and Leases	13,646,420	Operating Lease Liabilities	100,526
Allowance for Credit Losses	(144,439)	Retirement Benefits Payable	26,991
Net Loans and Leases	13,501,981	Accrued Interest Payable	9,698
		Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes	7,104
TOTAL EARNING ASSETS	21,847,066	Other Liabilities	394,083
Cash and Due From Banks	316,679	TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,289,882
Premises and Equipment, Net	206,777		
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	92,307	Shareholders' Equity	
Accrued Interest Receivable	61,002	Preferred Stock	180,000
Foreclosed Real Estate	1,040	Common Stock	582
Mortgage Servicing Rights	22,619	Capital Surplus	620,578
Goodwill	31,517	Accumulated Other	
Bank-Owned Life Insurance	453,882	Comprehensive Loss	(434,658)
Other Assets	573,988	Retained Earnings	2,055,912
		Treasury Stock, at Cost	(1,105,419)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 23,606,877		
		TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,316,995
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 23,606,877

BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN STATEMENT OF CONDITION			
At the Close of Business December 31, 2022 (dollars in thousands)			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$ 2,170	Deposits	\$ 180,273
Loans	50,643	Operating Lease Liabilities	326
Allowance for Credit Losses	(1,474)	Accrued Interest Payable	11
Net Loans	49,169	Other Liabilities	25
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	326		
Accrued Interest Receivable	117	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 180,635
Due from Head Office	126,838		
Premises and Equipment, Net	375		
Other Assets	1,640		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 180,635		

The audit reports of Bank of Hawai'i Corporation and Bank of Hawai'i - Saipan Branch are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC © 2023 Bank of Hawai'i Corporation is a trade name of Bank of Hawaii Corporation. Bank of Hawaii dba Bank of Hawai'i.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The David isn't porn, though Italy's offer to Florida school is about exposure—to education

The museum in Florence, Italy, that houses Michelangelo's Renaissance masterpiece the David issued a remarkable invitation last week to parents and students of a school in Tallahassee.

Come visit, the Galleria dell'Accademia said. See the statue for yourself.

The invite came after the forced resignation of the Florida charter school's principal after a parent complained that sixth-graders had been exposed to pornography during a lesson on Renaissance art that included the sculpture. It was yet another eruption in the state's ongoing culture wars, and it left Florida open to international ridicule.

Florence Mayor Dario Nardella even tweeted an invitation for the principal to visit so she can be recognized there, saying, "Art is civilization and whoever teaches it deserves respect."

Of course, the parents and kids probably aren't hopping on a flight to Europe to take the museum up on the offer any time soon. But the invitation wasn't about international travel anyway.

Keep an open mind

At its heart, it was an invitation to education. An invitation to open-mindedness. An invitation to remember that the 17-foot nude marble statue from 1504, carved by Michelangelo Buonarroti and representing the height of the Italian Renaissance, is considered a masterpiece around the world and maybe, just maybe, no one intended to harm your kids by letting them see it.

And what makes the invitation from Florence remarkable is that it is, well, constructive. It's a level-headed response to a moment of social friction. That shouldn't be particularly striking. But in Florida, where politicians are ceaselessly pushing anger and fear to stay in power, it is.

Here in the Sunshine State, we are increasingly braced for attack for being woke or sensitive or not sensitive or snowflakes or rewriting history or talking about diversity or saying "gay." We are quick to feel offense, amped up over everything and ready to assume the worst of others.

Why think about anything for more than a moment when you can just pop off? Why listen to other viewpoints when you can stew in your own anger and fear? It's satisfying and feeds our frustrated inner child—in the short term. It's also destructive to democracy and to a civil society in the longer term.

Fanning the flames

And the ever-widening river of fuel for all of this is coming from our elected leaders, who are identifying our vague fears and fanning them into fury. It's cynicism of the highest order, this exploitation of voters' concerns. Sadly, Gov. Ron DeSantis is leading the charge, following in the footsteps of his mentor, Donald Trump. The left isn't immune,

See DAVID on Page 9



The climate future is bleak. How scientists give their children hope without lying

Having a child is the most emphatic statement of hope a person can make. I have three young kids, and yet I have trouble remaining optimistic about the world they and their children will inhabit in 2100 and beyond.

The world 77 years from now is likely to be far hotter and more unstable, warmed in a way that depopulates entire metropolises and renders farmland nonarable. It's a world the latest report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns will become reality unless we make dramatic, immediate reductions in our fossil fuel use.

We're not on track to make those changes in time to prevent a world in which animal and plant species will die off at an alarming rate. And yet, kids deserve to have hope.

But not false hope. That was emphasized to me by Peter Kalmus, one of the climate scientists I called a few months ago to discuss the dissonance of raising children in a world we know to be headed for breakdown. In fact, "Earth breakdown" was the term he used to describe the ecological collapses and natural disasters that would be brought about by the global warming we face.

Kalmus told me his children, both of whom are teenagers, don't talk to him much about climate change. "I think false hope is a dangerous thing in general because it contributes to a lack of urgency, when we should all be feeling extreme urgency instead," Kalmus told me. He said he doesn't try to fill his children with pessimism, but "what I emphatically would not do is lie to my kids in any way."

So he gives his children hope by actually trying to prevent Earth breakdown. And Kalmus is trying, arguably as hard as anyone.

He and three scientists were arrested last year for chaining themselves to a Chase Bank in downtown Los Angeles to protest JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s industry-leading fossil fuel investments. More recently, he chained himself to the door of a private-jet terminal in Charlotte, North Carolina, saying the climate emergency requires ramping down aviation.

His civil disobedience is getting the attention of young people. He is the only climate scientist whom any of my children have mentioned to me by name.

Kalmus' "be the change" ethos dovetails somewhat with what Melissa Burt told me. She's an atmospheric science professor at Colorado State University who also helped found Science Moms, a climate advocacy campaign aimed at parents.

"Climate change literally affects everything, and that's why

By **PAUL THORNTON**

Los Angeles Times

Paul Thornton is the Los Angeles Times' letters editor.



people need to know," Burt said. "What is one thing you love to do? Well, we can have a conversation about how that will be different."

Parents taking concrete action can indicate to their children that they actually care about the problem, she said.

On that front, we've made progress in our home. For much of my life I've been an enthusiastic cyclist and transit commuter, so my children have grown up using sustainable transportation. We've also had an electric car since 2018, and early in the pandemic we stopped eating meat (animal agriculture is the second-biggest human-caused source of greenhouse gas emissions).

That last change was the easiest to make, as our kids never could morally square the idea that animals needed to die so they could eat. Plus, cutting out meat right before inflation spiked was good timing.

Above all, it's important for parents not to avoid discussing climate change. Children have a much stronger sense of impending calamity than adults give them credit for, and we owe them the benefit of honest guidance.

Burt mentioned the December 2021 wildfire near her in Boulder, Colo. She said her daughter has asked her, "Mommy, why am I smelling smoke?" Kalmus, who until recently lived in Altadena, cited the 2020 Bobcat fire as a traumatic event for his family. My children notice the forest that once shaded a favorite hike has been reduced to blackened, dead tree trunks by wildfire.

And they ask why. My older children have learned the basics about climate change in their classrooms; I try to relate some of that to what they see when we're out in nature. They've asked about fires and water restrictions, and even why I'm so reluctant to turn on the heater.

Each conversation is an opportunity to discuss not only climate change, but what we're doing at our house to not contribute to the problem. Action and example give hope. So does knowing that scientists, such as Kalmus and Burt, are working on the problem for us and their own children.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Happy Autism Awareness Month, CNMI!

April is Autism Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder, ASD, and to continue to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Autism affects millions of people worldwide, and yet many individuals with ASD continue to face stigma and discrimination. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and processes information. It's called a spectrum disorder because it affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity.

Autism Awareness Month exists to help increase understanding, reduce stigma, promote advocacy, highlight experiences, and encourage early detection and intervention for individuals with autism. By working together to raise awareness, we can create a more inclusive and supportive society for people with autism and their families. Inclusive communities are ones that recognize the diversity of their members and create opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute. For individuals with ASD, inclusion means being accepted for who they are, having access to resources and services that support their unique needs, and being able to fully participate in social, educational, and employment opportunities.

Despite the importance of inclusion, many individuals with ASD continue to face barriers to participation. Some may struggle

with sensory overload in certain environments, making it difficult for them to attend events or engage in social activities. Others may face discrimination and stigma that prevent them from accessing the resources they need. To create more inclusive communities, we need to start by educating ourselves about autism and other disabilities. By learning about the unique needs and perspectives of individuals with ASD, we can better understand how to support them and create more inclusive environments. We also need to advocate for policies and programs that support disability inclusion. This includes everything from ensuring that public spaces are accessible to individuals with disabilities to creating employment opportunities that are tailored to their strengths and abilities.

As we celebrate Autism Awareness Month, we are reminded that this is an important opportunity to raise awareness about ASD and advocate for disability inclusion. By working together to create more inclusive communities, we can ensure that everyone is valued, supported, and able to fully participate in all aspects of life.

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting various events throughout the month of April in honor of Autism Awareness Month. Such events include:

By **CLEO NENING**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Cleo Nening is a programs coordinator at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.



■ April 2, 2023, at 4pm: Walk for Autism at American Memorial Park

■ April 3, 2023, at 1:30pm: Proclamation signing at Saipan World Resort

■ April 8, 2023, at 10am: Autism Egg Hunt at Sugar King Park

■ April 16, 2023, at 2pm: Ride for Autism starting at the Airport Field to Micro Beach field

■ April 29, 2023, at 6pm: Quiz Night at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the CNMI state-designated Protection & Advocacy agency that protects the civil, legal, and human rights of individuals with disabilities. For more information, contact NMPASI at our office numbers (670) 235-7273/74, or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org.

Ukraine needs continued Western support—and tough love—on its path to true nationhood

The day the Ukrainian Parliament declared independence on Aug. 24, 1991, I witnessed the historical moment from the gallery with my wife and a group of Western expatriates. Below us, amid rapturous applause, a huge Ukrainian flag was carried into the hall on the shoulders of many of Ukraine's founding fathers. In a poignant instance of historical revenge, they draped the flag on the dais under a large statue of Vladimir Lenin and bellowed out "Chervona Kalyna," the song that has since become the unofficial Ukrainian anthem of resistance during the country's current war with Russia.

Up in the balcony, marveling at what was unfurling, we hugged one another and shed tears of joy. I thought of my parents, who had fled Ukraine and the tyranny of communism during World War II and settled in the Detroit area. We were experiencing a miracle about which they could have only dreamed.

But unlike Ukraine's Warsaw Pact neighbors, which began the painful transition from communism to capitalism and became nascent—though often struggling—democracies seeking to join the European family, Ukraine faced a far more difficult task. As an adviser working in Ukraine's new parliament, I had a front-row seat, and it was not a pretty sight.

History had sewn deep divisions among Ukrainians: those who spoke Russian versus those who spoke Ukrainian; Catholic versus Orthodox; and descendants of Austro-Hungarian and Polish rule in the West versus those who had for decades endured Russian hegemony and Soviet terror. While the country was undertaking arduous economic reforms, it also had to resolve linguistic, religious and regional tensions and put in place the basic structures of a functioning state.

Moreover, oligarchs, who showed great ingenuity in stealing state assets, seized control of the economy, undermining effective reform and development. Post-Soviet apparatchiks under President Leonid Kuchma (1994-2005) dominated the corrup-

tion-ridden government. Freedom of the press was curtailed. In 2000, the decapitation of the crusading journalist Georgiy Gongadze horrified the nation.

Consequently, the early post-independence months of euphoria quickly dissipated.

And then, in late 2004, Ukraine took the next historic steps on its journey of building a nation, first with the Orange Revolution, which rejected a Soviet-style rigged election, and then with the Maidan Revolution of 2014, which toppled the pro-Russian government that was blocking efforts to put Ukraine on a course toward Europe.

Despite the progress, opinion polls and voting patterns still reflected deep divisions along regional and generational lines, as well as on pro-European or pro-Russian orientation.

And then, in March 2014, Vladimir Putin annexed Crimea, and Russian proxies started a war in Ukraine's eastern provinces. One year ago, Putin launched an unprovoked, full-scale invasion.

As Putin continues his systematic destruction of the country, especially the largely Russian-speaking cities such as Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Mariupol and others, the linguistic, religious and cultural differences that used to divide Ukraine have largely disappeared. Ukrainians are now being brought together by the common cause of defeating their invader. Moreover, Putin's war has inadvertently put Ukraine on the map, turning President Volodymyr Zelenskyy into a Churchillian wartime leader.

The irony is not lost. Josef Stalin, who perpetrated the Holodomor, the Great Famine of 1932-33 that killed millions of Ukrainians, shaped the modern-day borders of Ukraine through a series of territorial consolidation. And now Putin, a denier of the very existence of the Ukrainian people and language, has arguably done more than any figure in history to create a unified Ukrainian nation and flush out the fifth column of pro-Russian

By **JOHN HEWKO**

Chicago Tribune

John Hewko is CEO of the Evanston-based Rotary International. Hewko advised the Ukrainian Parliament in the early 1990s and assisted a working group that prepared the initial draft of Ukraine's post-Soviet constitution.



collaborators and sympathizers who have hampered the country's alignment with Europe.

Completing the country's final journey to nationhood requires two steps.

First, before the invasion, corruption still plagued Ukrainian society. The oligarchs held sway over the economy and the country's judicial system was in dire need of reform. As a result of the war, Ukrainian society will not tolerate a return to the past, nor will its Western partners. However, the corrupt vultures will likely rise again and try to feast off the spoils.

It is not too early for Ukraine's allies to begin planning a postwar policy that will aggressively leverage the billions of dollars in reconstruction aid to mandate the rooting out of pervasive corruption, an overhaul of the legal system and the elimination of oligarchy. Without these changes, reconstruction will fail.

Second, Ukraine needs to have a realistic prospect of joining the European Union on an accelerated timeline. This step will incentivize the needed reforms and help shape a nation that not only aspires to, but also puts into practice, Western values and norms.

In 1991, swept up in the heady euphoria and idealism of the moment, I naively assumed that Ukraine's time as a country had come. It has taken another 32 years for the country to be on the cusp of finally reaching that goal.

In the future, as the people of Ukraine reorganize, rebuild and reform their nation, they will not only need continued Western military support but also a real chance to join the EU—along with some tough love to ensure that they take the final, crucial steps needed to realize their dream.

DAVID

From page 8

but the right has perfected this dreadful form of politics that has left us all feeling more miserable and alienated by the day.

This fight in Tallahassee isn't about a naked statue, though if parents want to keep their 11- and 12-year-olds away from seeing a famous statue's genitalia in art class, that should be their prerogative. (Good luck keeping them off the internet, though.)

Nor is it about the school itself, which follows a curriculum designed by Hillsdale College—a conservative Christian school in Michigan—that has become a lightning rod for the woke wars.

It's about fear and the overreaction that comes with it. It's about the demand for parental choice that comes out of that fear—but only extends one way.

One or even two or three parents calling the David porn shouldn't be allowed to dictate what every other parent chooses for their child. By the way, if parents want to control the entire curriculum, there's a route to do that: home schooling.

The invitation from Italy is a reminder that we weren't al-

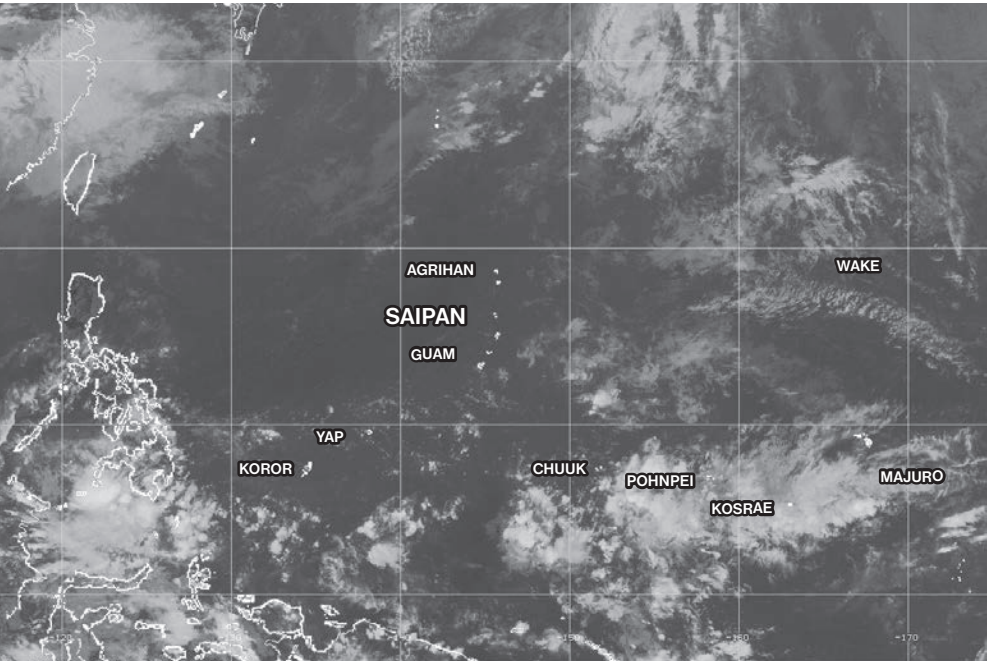
ways this way. And we don't have to be this way now. We can choose—we have the power—to deal with our differences in a rational, and even optimistic, way rather than reflexively turning to the anger that politicians are gleefully stoking. We can try education before condemnation.

DeSantis is wrong. Florida is not where woke goes to die. It's where civility and thoughtfulness and reasonableness and kindness go to die.

But only if we let it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 11:11 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated thunderstorms for the western waters this afternoon based on 00Z sounding data, radar/satellite trends and hi-res model guidance.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:27 AM	12:47 PM
Friday	-	2:15 AM	1:40 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	2:31 PM
Sunday	-	3:40 AM	3:21 PM
Monday	-	4:18 AM	4:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	67° / 53°	
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 50°	
Hong Kong	Showers	73° / 69°	
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 73°	
London	Sunny	79° / 56°	
Los Angeles	Rain	59° / 47°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	59° / 51°	
Miami	Rain	83° / 72°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	54° / 33°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	68° / 50°	
Paris	Showers	62° / 53°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 52°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 53°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 43°	
San Francisco	Thundershowers	52° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	69° / 40°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 51°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 36°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:28 AM	High Tide	1.53	
9:39 AM	Low Tide	1.26	
1:06 PM	High Tide	1.38	
9:19 PM	Low Tide	0.17	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

EC Laundry opens in Koblerville

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A clean, no-frills laundromat with brand new U.S.-made washers and dryers has opened in Koblerville.

EC Laundry, as its name already suggests, is an effortless laundromat that can suit your washing and drying needs.

Easy because the washers and dryers are spanking new models from Speed-Queen, so you're guaranteed they're efficient and won't break down.

Easy because customers don't need to fix up the tables for folding clothes because they're already pristine.

Finally, it's also easy because EC Laundry is conveniently located right next to Koblerville Market where customers can buy their laundry soap, dryer sheets, and fabric softeners—as well as snacking and beverage needs.

Unlike other laundromats on island, EC Laundry is also well ventilated with seven electric fans strategically



EC Laundry is located along Koblerville Road next to Koblerville Market and across the Koblerville fire station.

MARK RABAGO

cally mounted on the walls. There's also ample parking space outside.

Staff Qiong Yi said the new laundromat just opened this month and boasts of 11 20-kg, seven 30-kg, and two 40-kg front-loading washers as well as 18 high-performance dryers.

Don't have time to wash your clothes? EC Laundry has your back as drop-off

laundry is available ranging from \$6 to \$8, depend-

ing on the size of the hamper. Yi also guaranteed

next-day pickup for their drop-off services.



MARK RABAGO

EC Laundry is open everyday, Monday-Sunday, from 7am to 10pm.



MARK RABAGO

EC Laundry boasts of 11 20-kg, seven 30-kg, and two 40-kg front-loading washers as well as 18 high-performance dryers.

FTX founder Bankman-Fried is charged with paying \$40M bribe

NEW YORK (AP)—FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried was charged with directing \$40 million in bribes to one or more Chinese officials to unfreeze assets relating to his cryptocurrency business in a newly rewritten indictment unsealed Tuesday.

The charge of conspiracy to violate the anti-bribery provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act raises to 13 the number of charges Bankman-Fried faces after he was arrested in the Bahamas in December and brought to the United States soon afterward. The indictment was returned on Monday.

The charge also contains language revealing that a fifth arrest was imminent in what U.S. Attorney Damian Williams has repeatedly described as a continuing investigation. That unidentified individual, according to the indictment, participated in the bribery conspiracy with Bankman-Fried and "will be arrested in the Southern District of New York."

FTX filed for bankruptcy on Nov. 11, when it ran out of money after the equivalent of a bank run on the global cryptocurrency exchange. He has remained free on a \$250

million personal recognizance bond that lets him stay with his parents in Palo Alto, California.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges that he cheated investors out of billions of dollars before his business collapsed.

A spokesperson for Bankman-Fried's lawyers told The Associated Press Tuesday that they had no comment.

An arraignment on the rewritten indictment was set for Thursday by U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan. He also on Tuesday banned Bankman-Fried from communicating with current or ex-employees of FTX or Alameda Research, its affiliated cryptocurrency hedge fund trading firm. The order also limits Bankman-Fried to one laptop and phone and bans him from encrypted communications or other cellphones, computers, or "smart" devices with internet access.

The alleged bribes stemmed from the operation of Alameda Research. The indictment said Chinese law enforcement authorities in early 2021 froze certain Alameda cryptocurrency trading accounts containing about \$1 billion in cryptocurrency on two of China's largest cryptocurrency exchanges.

Biden: GOP policies would surrender tech economy to China

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—President Joe Biden said Tuesday that Republicans' ideas for cutting the budget could undermine U.S. manufacturing and help China dominate the world economy.

Speaking at a semiconductor maker in North Carolina to highlight his own policies, Biden is trying to shape public sentiment as he faces off with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., about whether the federal government should raise its legal borrowing capacity.

McCarthy sent a letter Tuesday saying that talks should start about possible spending cuts in return for the debt limit increase. Biden has said Republicans need to put forth their own budget plan before negotiations start. Without an agreement, the federal government could default on its financial obligations.

The president tried to ratchet up pressure on Tuesday by

saying that the GOP demands on the budget would only empower China, the country's key geopolitical rival. Being tough on China has been a core part of the identity of former President Donald Trump, who is seeking to return to the White House in 2024, and his Make America Great Again movement. The Democratic president said their objections to his policies would instead strengthen China.

"It would mean ceding the future of innovation and technology to China," Biden told the crowd. "I've got news for you and for MAGA Republicans in Congress: not on my watch. We're not going to let them undo all the progress we made."

Biden's trip to Wolfspeed follows the Durham-based company announcing plans last September to build a \$5 billion manufacturing facility in Chatham County that is expected to create 1,800 new jobs. Biden had won passage

last July of a \$280 billion legislative package known as the CHIPS Act, which was intended to boost the U.S. semiconductor industry and scientific research.

It's nothing new for the Biden administration to highlight the CHIPS Act, the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill, the \$1 trillion infrastructure legislation and a roughly \$375 billion climate bill—major legislation that the Democratic administration steered into law before Democrats lost control of the House.

But now, just weeks after Biden unveiled his own budget—it includes \$2.6 trillion in new spending — his administration is looking for chances to lean into its battle with Republicans over spending priorities and who has better ideas to steward the U.S. economy in the years to come. Republicans have rejected Biden's budget but have yet to unveil their own counteroffer to the

Since opening in early March, EC Laundry has attracted its fair share of customers, with most coming from Koblerville and adjoining villages

Aside from the new tables, washing machines, and dryers, EC Laundry also has video surveillance cameras so customers can be rest assured that if they left their laundry or valuables, they can review the video and find out what happened.

"We opened the laundromat to help people in the area's laundry needs. It's a very clean and roomy space. We also welcome everyone and our machines are all brand new," said Yi.

EC Laundry is located along Koblerville Road next to Koblerville Market and across the Koblerville fire station in Koblerville. It is open everyday, Monday-Sunday, from 7am to 10pm. For more information, call (670) 788-2268.

Democrats' blueprint, which is built around tax increases on the wealthy and a vision statement of sorts for Biden's yet-to-be-declared campaign for reelection in 2024.

His trip is part of a larger effort to draw attention to his policies, which have been overshadowed by high inflation.

Besides Biden's visit to Wolfspeed, Vice President Kamala Harris, first lady Jill Biden and other senior administration officials will fan out to 20 states over the next three weeks to highlight the impact of Biden's economic agenda, according to the White House.

Biden has said he intends to run for a second term but has yet to formally launch his reelection campaign. His effort to highlight legislative victories could also give him an opportunity to present voters with images of an administration focused on governing as Trump braces for a possible indictment.

Nation

Police: Nashville shooter fired indiscriminately at victims

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The shooter who killed three students and three staff members at a Christian school in Nashville legally bought seven weapons in recent years and hid the guns from their parents before carrying out the attack by firing indiscriminately at victims and spraying gunfire through doors and windows, police said Tuesday.

The violence Monday at The Covenant School was the latest school shooting to roil the nation and was planned carefully. The shooter had drawn a detailed map of the school, including potential entry points, and conducted surveillance of the building before carrying out the massacre, authorities said.

The suspect, Audrey Hale, 28, was a former student at the school. Hale did not target specific victims — among them three 9-year-olds and the head of the school — but did



A youngster writes a message on crosses at an entry to Covenant School, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn., which has become a memorial to the victims of Monday's school shooting.

target “this school, this church building,” police spokesperson Don Aaron said at a news conference Tuesday.

Hale was under a doctor's care for an undisclosed emo-

tional disorder and was not known to police before the attack, Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said at the news conference.

If police had been told that

Hale was suicidal or homicidal, “then we would have tried to get those weapons,” Drake said. “But as it stands, we had absolutely no idea who this person was or if (Hale) even existed.”

Tennessee does not currently have a “red flag” law, which lets police step in and take firearms away from people who threaten to kill.

On Tuesday night, Tennessee's governor said one of the victims, 61-year-old substitute

teacher Cynthia Peak, was a close friend of his wife, Maria, and that the two had been scheduled to have dinner after Peak taught that day.

“Maria woke up this morning without one of her best friends,” Gov. Bill Lee said, adding that his wife once taught with Peak and another victim, Katherine Koonce, and the women and “have been family friends for decades.”

Hale legally bought seven firearms from five local gun stores, Drake said. Three of them were used in Monday's shooting. Police spokesperson Brooke Reese said Hale bought the guns between October 2020 and June 2022.

Hale's parents believed their child had sold one gun and did not own any others, Drake said, adding that Hale “had been hiding several weapons within the house.”

Hale's motive is unknown, Drake said. In an interview with NBC News on Monday, Drake said investigators don't know what drove Hale but believe the shooter had “some resentment for having to go to that school.”

Drake, at Tuesday's news conference, described “several differ-

ent writings by Hale” that mention other locations and The Covenant School.

Asked at a Senate hearing whether the Justice Department would open an investigation into whether the shooting was a hate crime targeting Christians, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said federal officials were working with local police to identify a motive.

Police have released videos of the shooting, including edited surveillance footage that shows the shooter's car driving up to the school, glass doors being shot out and the shooter ducking through one of them.

Additional video, from Officer Rex Engelbert's bodycam, shows a woman meeting police outside as they arrive and telling them that all the children were locked down, “but we have two kids that we don't know where they are.”

The woman then directs officers to Fellowship Hall and says people inside had just heard gunshots. Three officers, including Engelbert, search rooms one by one, holding rifles and announcing themselves as police.

After school shooting, Tenn. gun laws likely to remain lax

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—As Nashville residents reeled from a fatal grade school shooting that left six dead, a federal judge quietly cleared the way to drop the minimum age for Tennesseans to carry handguns publicly without a permit to 18 — just two years after a new law set the age at 21.

The move marked yet another relaxation of gun laws in ruby red Tennessee, where GOP leaders have steadily chipped away at firearms regulations and lambasted those who have warned that doing so comes at a cost.

It's a familiar scene playing out across the United States, with Republican-dominant states rebuffing calls to strengthen gun safety laws in the wake of violent tragedies and Democrats in blue states championing gun control proposals.

“This isn't freedom. Our families don't deserve this. I am sick of living in fear that our loved ones won't make it home because of gun violence,” said state Sen. Raumesh Akbari, a Democrat from Memphis, shortly after Monday's shooting.

“Prayers are good, but faith without works is dead,” she said, referencing a common Bible verse. “Let's not let another preventable tragedy unfold without this legislature taking real action.”

In a video statement released late Tuesday, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee called on Tennesseans to pray, but added:

“Prayer is the first thing we should do, but it's not the only thing.”

He made no mention of guns or gun laws but vowed to take action. He said that his wife had been friends with two of the victims in Monday's shooting and that the three had once taught together.

“We can all agree on one thing, that every human has great value,” said the Republican governor. “And we will act to prevent this from happening again. There's a clear desire in all of us, whether we agree on the action steps or not, that we must work to find ways to protect against evil.”

In Tennessee, Monday's school shooting isn't expected to move the political needle on gun regulation. Republicans control every major political office throughout the state and face little serious opposition against Democrats who call for stricter gun laws.

In 2019, Lee told religious leaders he believed if Tennesseans prayed to God to favor the state, God would answer those prayers — ranging from diminishing the state's opioid epidemic and improving Tennessee's educational outcomes, to avoiding school shootings.

But last year, when asked if he would support restricting firearms in response to recent mass shootings across the U.S., Lee voiced his opposition.

“We can't control what we can't control,” he said in the days following the gunning

down of 19 elementary school students and two teachers in Texas.

Instead, Lee signed an executive order calling for enhanced safety measures, but without any mention of guns. He has also called for adding a school resource officer in every school while stating that he has not considered arming teachers to help boost school security.

In his video statement Monday, Lee said steps have been taken to strengthen school safety “and that work was not in vain.”

Recently resurfaced photos of U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles and his family from 2021 further capture Tennessee's relaxed gun culture. The images show the Republican and his family posing with firearms in front of their Christmas tree. The caption read: “The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good.”

Ogles, whose district includes Nashville, said after Monday's school shooting that his family was “devastated by the tragedy.”

Already this year, Republican lawmakers have introduced bills that would make it easier to arm teachers and allow college students to carry weapons on campus. Democratic-led efforts to strengthen gun safety measures have faltered. On Tuesday, lawmakers delayed taking up any of the contentious gun related bills, saying they wanted to offer respect to the community.

Daughter: Mississippi tornado victim was 'beautiful soul'

ROLLING FORK, Miss. (AP)—With her sister behind the wheel, Queen'terica Jones rushed across the flat Mississippi Delta as a powerful tornado bore down on their mother's home. The howling winds lifted the rear of their car off the ground and slammed them into a churchyard.

They arrived too late. The tornado had already killed their mother, ruined her home and devastated the town of Rolling Fork. With no electricity, survivors used cellphone flashlights to pick through the wreckage. Jones said she found her mother's lifeless body face-down in the yard, bloodied by nails that struck her head.

“I wouldn't wish this pain upon nobody, not even an enemy,” Jones said Tuesday.

Her mother, Erica “Nikki” Moore, worked as a personal care assistant and is survived by six children. She was “a beautiful soul” who loved to pray and help people, Jones said.

“She was amazing. A sweetheart,” Jones said. “I mean, ain't nobody perfect. Everybody goes through something, but our mom — everybody that's known our

mom knows she had a heart of gold.”

At least 21 people in Mississippi and a man in Alabama perished as menacing storms tore across the Deep South over the weekend. The toll was especially steep in Sharkey County, in western Mississippi, where Moore was among 13 people who died in a county of 3,700 residents.

County Coroner Angelia Eason said the losses hit the close-knit community hard.

“I had to identify family, that's what it felt like,” Eason said. “When something like this happens, we tend to come together even closer. We didn't just lose 13 people. We lost 13 family members.”

The storm wiped out multiple generations: A woman and her elderly mother were killed, Eason said. Others were in the wrong place at the wrong time: A man from Yazoo City had traveled more than 30 miles (48 kilometers) for an auction in Rolling Fork.

TJ Herman said his sister, Linda Herman, and their mother, Luvella Herman, died when the tornado wiped out the mobile home park where they lived. Linda had

retired after working in restaurants, and she took good care of their mother, said TJ, who lives in Rockford, Illinois. He said his mother and sister enjoyed their uncomplicated life in Rolling Fork.

“Matter of fact, we brought our mom up here once, and we had to turn around and take her back the next day when she found out that we had to lock our doors up here,” TJ said Tuesday, referring to his hometown of Rockford. “In her community, nobody locked their doors. She didn't like it very much up here.”

Lonnie and Melissa Pierce lived a quiet, peaceful life in the town before the tornado swept up a neighbor's semi-truck and dropped it onto their brick home like a bomb, killing the married couple.

Lonnie's friends and neighbors say the retired welder was fond of hunting and bass fishing. Melissa volunteered for a local Christian charity that operates a small thrift store.

“They were good. About the best, I can tell you that,” said neighbor Harvey Cockrell, 76, a fellow welder who worked with Lonnie for decades.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Former Taiwan leader begins mainland tour at historic tomb

NANJING, China (AP)—Former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou began a 12-day tour of China with a symbolism-laden visit to the mausoleum where a founding figure revered in both China and Taiwan is entombed. Ma visited the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing, the capital when Ma's Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) ruled China in the early part of the 20th century. The party claimed to be the legitimate ruler of China for decades and is seen as more sympathetic to integration or unification with the mainland than the ruling Democratic People's Party. There, he paid tribute to Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Republic of China and the Nationalist Party, giving a short speech and then bowing in front of the memorial. "The people of both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to the Chinese nation, are children of Yandi and the Yellow Emperor," he told a group of Chinese and Taiwanese reporters who had been allowed to follow him on the trip, referring to mythical emperors revered as founders of China's dominant Han ethnicity. Ma's tour of China comes as tensions between Taiwan and China rise, aggravated by an antagonistic U.S.-China relationship. Taiwan, where the Kuomintang retreated after losing the civil war in China, is today a self-governed democracy and the U.S. is its largest unofficial ally. China, however, claims the island as its own.

Pakistan says it will skip US democracy summit amid turmoil

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan announced Tuesday it will not participate in this week's U.S.-led Summit for Democracy, a move seen in part as an effort by the impoverished Islamic nation to assuage long-time ally China, which was not invited. The Biden administration has invited 120 global leaders to the summit being held in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday. It will be co-hosted by the governments of Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry in a statement thanked the United States and its co-hosts for the invitation. Pakistan was also not part of the first and only other summit held in December 2021. Pakistan is the fifth largest country in the world with a population of over 220 million. It has a functional democracy, although critics say Pakistan

ranks among the worst democracies in the world. "Pakistan would engage bilaterally with the United States and co-hosts of the Summit to promote and strengthen democratic principles and values and work towards advancing human rights and the fight against corruption," the statement said. Pakistan did not attend the 2021 summit amid growing tension between the government of then-Prime Minister Imran Khan and the U.S. administration of President Joe Biden. Relations between Washington and Khan were further strained when Khan visited Moscow in February 2022 during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

UN says Afghan girls' education activist arrested in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An Afghan rights activist who has campaigned for girls' education has been arrested in Kabul, the United Nations said on Tuesday. The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said Matiullah Wesa, founder and president of Pen Path — a local nongovernmental group that travels across Afghanistan with a mobile school and library — was arrested in the Afghan capital on Monday. Local reports said Taliban security forces detained Wesa after his return from a trip to Europe. The U.N. urged authorities in Kabul to clarify Wesa's whereabouts, reasons for his arrest and ensure his access to legal representation and contact with family. There was no immediate word from the Taliban on the arrest. Since their takeover of Afghanistan, the Taliban have imposed restrictions on women's and minority rights. Girls are barred from school beyond the sixth grade and last year, the Taliban banned women from going to university. Wesa's brother, Attaullah Wesa, said the Taliban forces surrounded their family's house on Tuesday. They beat up the Wesas' other two brothers, insulted their mother and confiscated the arrested activist's mobile phone. Social media activists later created a hashtag to campaign for Wesa's release. Many posts condemned his detention and demanded immediate freedom for the activist. Wesa has been outspoken in his demands for girls to have the right to go to school and learn, and has repeatedly called on the Taliban-led government to reverse its bans. His most recent tweets about female education coincided with the start of the new academic year in Afghanistan, with girls remaining shut out

of classrooms and campuses. Wesa and others from the Pen Path launched a door-to-door campaign to promote girls' education.

Australian soldier charged over Afghan killing freed on bail

SYDNEY (AP)—A former elite soldier charged with murder for allegedly killing an unarmed man in Afghanistan was released on bail Tuesday by a magistrate who concluded he would face danger from Muslim extremists in prison. Oliver Schulz, 41, had been in custody since his arrest in rural New South Wales state last week on the war crime of murder. His lawyer Phillip Boulten applied for bail in Sydney's Downing Center Local Court on Monday, arguing the former Special Air Service Regiment trooper faced serious risks to his personal safety from Muslim extremists in the prison system and had to be segregated from other inmates.

More than 180 Rohingya refugees arrive on Indonesian beach

LHOKSEUMAWA, Indonesia (AP)—More than 180 disoriented Rohingya Muslims, some of whom needed medical attention, arrived in the early morning in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh, an official said Monday. "From the information we received, the boat took them and told them that they have arrived at their destination and left them at the beach," said Andy Rahmansyah, East Aceh police chief. He said the authorities are still collecting more information and giving medical aid to some of the refugees. Ali Hussein, one of the refugees, said the boat took them from Bangladesh before it fled and left them in the dark after the group disembarked to the beach. "It was difficult there. When we were gathered, we got offered a rate for the boat and we agreed to go to a far place, whether it is Indonesia or Malaysia," Hussein said. The group of 184, including women and children, arrived by fishing boat at Kuala Matang Peulawi, a coastal area in Peureulak subdistrict in East Aceh. More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh after an army-led crackdown in August 2017. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of Rohingya homes.

World

'Any Russian victory could be perilous'



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during an interview with Julie Pace, senior vice president and executive editor of The Associated Press, on a train traveling from the Sumy region to Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday March 28, 2023.

ON A TRAIN FROM SUMY TO KYIV, Ukraine

(AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Tuesday that unless his nation wins a drawn-out battle in a key eastern city, Russia could begin building international support for a deal that could require Ukraine to make unacceptable compromises. He also invited the leader of China, long aligned with Russia, to visit.

If Bakhmut fell to Russian forces, their president, Vladimir Putin, would "sell this victory to the West, to his society, to China, to Iran," Zelenskyy said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press.

"If he will feel some blood — smell that we are weak — he will push, push, push," Zelenskyy said in

English, which he used for virtually all of the interview.

The Ukrainian leader spoke to the AP aboard a train shuttling him across Ukraine, to cities near some of the fiercest fighting and others where his country's forces have successfully repelled Russia's invasion. The AP is the first news organization to travel extensively with Zelenskyy since the war began just over a year ago.

Since then, Ukraine — backed by much of the West — has surprised the world with the strength of its resistance against the larger, better equipped Russian military. Ukrainian forces have held their capital, Kyiv, and pushed Russia back from other strategically important areas.

But as the war enters its

second year, Zelenskyy finds himself focused on keeping motivation high in both his military and the general Ukrainian population — particularly the millions who have fled abroad and those living in relative comfort and security far from the front lines.

Zelenskyy is also well aware that his country's success has been in great part due to waves of international military support, particularly from the United States and Western Europe. But some in the United States — including Republican Donald Trump, the former American president and current 2024 candidate — have questioned whether Washington should continue to supply Ukraine with billions of dollars in military aid.

Video shows guards walking away during fire that killed 38

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—After migrants in northern Mexico placed mattresses against the bars of their detention cell and set them on fire, guards quickly walked away and made no apparent attempt to release the men before smoke filled the room and killed 38 men, surveillance video showed Tuesday.

Hours after the fire broke out late Monday, rows of bodies were laid out under shimmering silver sheets outside the immigration detention facility in Ciudad Juarez, which is across the U.S. border from El Paso, Texas, and a major crossing point for migrants.

Authorities originally

reported 40 dead, but later said some may have been counted twice in the confusion. Twenty-eight people were injured and were in "delicate-serious" condition, according to the National Immigration Institute.

At the time of the blaze, 68 men from Central and South America were being held at the facility, the agency said. The institute said almost all were from Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela and El Salvador.

In the video, two people dressed as guards rush into the camera frame, and at least one migrant appears by the metal gate on the other side. But the guards did not appear to make any effort to open the cell doors and in-

stead ran away as billowing clouds of smoke filled the structure within seconds.

Adán Augusto López, Mexico's interior secretary, confirmed the authenticity of the video in an interview with local journalist Joaquín López Doriga.

Immigration authorities identified the dead and injured as being from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, according to a statement from the Mexican attorney general's office.

Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the fire was started by migrants in protest after learning they would be deported.

Environment

Tornado-spawning storms may get worse due to warming



By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

America will probably get more killer tornado- and hail-spawning supercells as the world warms, according to a new study that also warns the lethal storms will edge eastward to strike more frequently in the more populous Southern states, like Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The supercell storm that devastated Rolling Fork, Mississippi is a single event that can't be connected to climate change. But it fits that projected and more dangerous pattern, including more nighttime strikes in a southern region with more people, poverty and vulnerable housing than where storms hit last century. And the season will start a month earlier than it used to.

The study in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society predicts a nationwide 6.6% increase in supercells and a 25.8% jump in the area and time the strongest supercells twist and tear over land under a scenario of moderate levels of future warming by the end of the century. But in certain areas in the South the increase is much higher. That includes Rolling Fork, where study authors project an increase of one supercell a year by the year 2100.

Supercells are nature's ultimate storms, so-called "Finger of God" whoppers that are "the dominant producers of significant tornadoes and

hail," said lead author Walker Ashley, a professor of meteorology and disaster geography at Northern Illinois University. Tall, anvil-shaped and sky-filling, supercells have a rotating powerful up-draft of wind and can last for hours.

Supercells spawned the 2013 Moore, Oklahoma, tornado that killed 51 people, the 2011 Joplin, Missouri, tornado outbreak that killed 161 people and the 2011 super outbreak that killed more than 320 people in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, the Mid-South.

The study used computer simulations to predict what will happen by the end of the century with different levels of global carbon pollution levels. But Ashley said that stormier future seems like it's already here.

"The data that I've seen has persuaded me that we are in this experiment and living it right now," Ashley said in an interview three days before the EF-4 tornado killed more than 20 people in Mississippi on Friday. "What we're seeing in the longer term is actually occurring right now."

Ashley and others said although the Mississippi tornado fits the projected pattern, it was a single weather event, which is different than climate projections over many years and a large area.

Ashley and study co-author Victor Gensini, another meteorology professor at Northern Illinois University and a longtime tornado expert,

said they are watching the potential for another supercell blow-up in the Mid-South on Friday.

Past studies have been unable to forecast supercells and tornadoes in future climate simulations because they are small-scale events, especially tornadoes, that global computer models can't see. Ashley and Gensini used smaller regional computer models and compensated for their reduced computing power by spending two years running simulations and crunching data.

Three scientists not connected to the study said it makes sense. One of them, Pennsylvania State University tornado scientist Paul Markowski, called it a promising advance because it explicitly simulated storms, compared to past research that only looked at general environments favorable to supercells.

While the study finds a general increase in supercell counts, what it mostly finds are large shifts in where and when they hit—generally, more east of Interstate 35, which runs through east central Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and fewer to the west.

In moderate warming – less warming than the world is headed for based on current emissions – parts of eastern Mississippi and eastern Oklahoma are projected to get three more supercells every two years, with eastern Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama,

western Tennessee and eastern Georgia getting one more supercell every other year.

With worst-case warming—more than the world is presently on track for—the study projects similar changes but with worsening supercells over eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas and southern Missouri.

Cities that should see more supercells as warming worsens include Dallas-Fort Worth, Little Rock, Memphis, Jackson, Tupelo, Birmingham and Nashville, Ashley said.

The moderate warming simulation projects 61% more supercells in March and 46% more in April, while the more severe warming scenario has 119% more in March and 82% more in April. They see double-digit percentage point drops in June and July.

In the mid-South, including Rolling Fork, the study projects supercell activity peaking two hours later, from 6 to 9 p.m. instead of 4 to 7 p.m. That means more nighttime supercells.

"If you want a disaster, create a supercell at night where you can't go outside and visually confirm the threat" so people don't take it as seriously, Gensini said.

The eastward shift also puts more people at risk because those areas are more densely populated than the traditional tornado alley of Kansas and Oklahoma, Ashley and Gensini said. The population coming under more

risk is also poorer and more frequently lives in mobile or manufactured homes, which are more dangerous places in a tornado.

What's likely happening as the climate warms is the Southwest United States is getting hotter and drier, Ashley and Gensini said. Meanwhile, the Gulf of Mexico, which provides the crucial moisture for the storms, is getting hotter and the air coming from there is getting juicier and unstable.

The hot dry air from places like New Mexico puts a stronger "cap" on where storms would normally brew when air masses collide in spring time. That cap means storms can't quite boil over as much in the Great Plains. The pressure builds as the weather front moves east, leading to supercells forming later and farther eastward, Gensini and Ashley said.

Because February and March are getting warmer than they used to be this will happen earlier in the year, but by July and August the cap of hot dry air is so strong that supercells have a hard time forming, Ashley and Gensini said.

It's like playing with a pair of dice loaded against you, Ashley said. One of those dice is making the odds worse because of more people in the way and the other one is loaded with more supercells "increasing the odds of the perils too, tornadoes and hail."



2. Debris is strewn around tornado damaged homes, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Rolling Fork, Miss. 3. A man carries a young girl who was rescued after being trapped with her mother in their home after a tornado hit Joplin, Mo., May 22, 2011. 4. A woman walks near an uprooted tree, a flipped vehicle and debris from homes damaged by a tornado, March 27, 2023, in Rolling Fork, Miss. 5. Jimmy Carter climbs through a window in the front of his home as Carter, his wife, and friends spent the morning looking for salvageable items from their home in Moore, Okla., May 21, 2013.

AP

Life & Style

Visitors flock to see David sculpture after Florida uproar

FLORENCE, Italy (AP)—Visitors flocked to see Michelangelo’s David sculpture in Florence on Tuesday, following an uproar over a Florida school’s decision to force the resignation of the principal over complaints about a lesson featuring the Renaissance masterpiece.

Tourists, many of them Americans on spring break or studying abroad, posed for selfies in front of the giant marble statue, which features the Biblical David, naked with a sling over his shoulder and a rock in his hand, ready for battle with Goliath.

Florence’s Galleria dell’Accademia, which houses the sculpture, reopened Tuesday after its weekly Monday closure, and both tourists and locals alike couldn’t get over the controversy.

“It’s part of history,” said Isabele Joles from Ohio, who is studying French and Italian art with her school group. “I don’t understand how you can say it’s porn.”

She and other visitors were reacting to the decision by Tal-



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP
Tourists take photos in front of Michelangelo’s “David statue” in the Accademia Gallery in Florence, Italy, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

lahassee Classical School board to pressure Principal Hope Carrasquilla to resign last week after an image of the David was shown to a sixth-grade art class. Carrasquilla believes the

board targeted her after three parents complained because they weren’t notified in advance that a nude image would be shown, while a third called the iconic statue, which is con-

sidered the height of Renaissance sculpture, pornographic. The school has a policy requiring parents to be notified in advance about “controversial” topics being taught.

Over the weekend, both Florence’s mayor and the museum director voiced incredulity over the ruckus and issued invitations for the ousted principal and the school community to come and see the sculpture for themselves.

“We are talking about the roots of Western culture, and ‘David’ is the height, the height of beauty,” museum director Cecilie Hollberg said in an interview Tuesday, as tourists brushed past her snapping selfies with the statue.

The controversy wasn’t only a topic of conversation in Florence. On Monday night in Tallahassee, a large crowd showed up for a school board meeting with public comment on the issue of the David statue controversy lasting over an hour, the Tallahassee Democrat reported. Some parents and teachers criticized the board and even asked chairman Barney Bishop to step aside.

“Given the dissatisfaction of all these parents with your leadership, would you be willing to lead us by integrity by resigning?” asked teacher

Ben Steigner.

Bishop refused, saying he intends to remain as chairman through the end of his term in May and then another year on the board, the newspaper reported. The five trustees are elected by themselves, not the parents, and serve three-year-terms. New Principal Cara Wynn told the school board that nine students had left the school since the David controversy began, but that three had enrolled.

Tallahassee Classical is a charter school. While it is taxpayer-funded and tuition-free, it operates almost entirely independently of the local school district and is sought out by parents seeking an alternative to the public school curriculum. About 400 students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend the three-year-old institution, which is now on its third principal. It follows a curriculum designed by Hillsdale College, a conservative Christian school in Michigan frequently consulted by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on educational issues.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Gumbel to receive Sports Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award
Bryant Gumbel will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award during the 44th Annual Sports Emmy Awards on May 22 in New York, The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced Tuesday. Gumbel’s career has spanned more than 50 years on NBC, CBS and HBO. He has hosted “Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel”

on HBO since 1995. It has received 36 Sports Emmys. “It’s very humbling. I’ve been a fortunate, lucky guy,” said Gumbel, who is the first Black journalist to receive the award. “It makes you stop and take stock. You take a look at the guys who I admire a great deal who received this award, people like Vin Scully, Jim McKay and Howard Cosell. You never want to put yourself in their company, but it’s heady stuff.” (AP)

Queen and Adam Lambert eager for their post-pandemic tour
NEW YORK (AP)—Queen and Adam Lambert are hitting the road this fall for a North American expansion of their Rhapsody Tour, with a freshly minted knight onstage and plenty of post-pandemic energy. The band boasts about a new production with a some new songs added to the setlist and a few surprises that members won’t reveal, the product

of plenty of time to think about the way the tour looks and sounds. “We do constantly try and keep ourselves interested because it’s nice to change the show around, even in small ways,” says drummer Roger Taylor. “Obviously we do some sort of deep cuts whilst at the same time keeping the big hits that everybody knows. People want to see what they know. But it’s nice to spice it up with a few things they might not expect.”

Feel the Force: Hamill carries ‘Star Wars’ voice to Ukraine
KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—“Attention. Air raid alert,” the voice says with a Jedi knight’s gravitas. “Proceed to the nearest shelter.” It’s a surreal moment in an already surreal war: the grave but calming baritone of actor Mark Hamill, Luke Skywalker of “Star Wars,” urging people to take cover whenever Russia unleashes another aerial

bombardment on Ukraine. The intrusion of Hollywood science-fiction fantasy into the grim daily realities of war in Ukraine is a consequence of Hamill’s decision to lend his famous voice to “Air Alert”—a downloadable app linked to Ukraine’s air defense system. When air raid sirens start howling, the app also warns Ukrainians that Russian missiles, bombs and deadly exploding drones may be incoming.

Boyfriend issues ultimatum to girlfriend and her son

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of three years wants me to move in with him. He’s a great guy. He’s loving and affectionate, kind and caring. We want the same things for our kids and have quite a few things in common. We enjoy playing sports, and we’re both foodies. He checks a lot of my boxes, so I know I’m ready for marriage.

We both have kids. He has a 10-year-old girl; I have a 4-year-old boy. He has asked me multiple times to move in with him, but I’d like to be engaged or married before doing so. He wants us to live together first because my relationship with his daughter hasn’t flourished. He’d also like to build a trusting relationship with my son, which I understand and find equally important.

He says we must live together before he proposes to me because we need to work on our finances and careers, etc. He has now given me an ultimatum—either I move in, or he moves on. What am I to do? Am I asking for too much?

COERCED IN FLORIDA

DEAR COERCED: I don’t think it’s too much to want a commitment from your loving, affectionate, rigid and controlling boyfriend before moving in with him. “Move in or I’m dumping you” doesn’t seem particularly “loving” to me—it seems more like emotional blackmail. Tell him you have concerns because your relationship

with his daughter—after three years—“hasn’t flourished.” Does she live with him? Things won’t improve if your presence is forced on her. From where I sit, it appears he wants to “try you on for size” with absolutely no commitment on his part. If you do what he’s demanding, there is no guarantee he will ever propose marriage. Move on.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a retired married man. My sister, who is four years younger, was recently widowed. She was married for a long time to an abusive alcoholic who eventually drank himself to death. Sometime later, she married a friend of hers who I suspect was also abusive. He died a year ago, leaving her with almost nothing.

Because of differences in our political and spiritual beliefs, my sister and I are not close. She tends to be very defensive in conversation and emails. However, my wife and I have been thinking we’d like to give her something monetarily so she could be more comfortable. It wouldn’t be a single gift on our part, or a large amount. We feel it would be best if given on a weekly or monthly basis.

How should I approach my sister about it? There will be no strings attached, just a regularly given amount to do with however she wants. Any thoughts you have would be greatly appreciated.

NOT CLOSE, BUT CARING

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NOT CLOSE: You are caring, thoughtful and generous. It is a shame that political differences have driven a wedge between you and your sister. Because she “tends to be defensive” when the two of you make contact, ask your attorney to write her a letter explaining that you and your wife are doing some “estate planning” and you wish to give her a certain sum of money each week (or month) to use as she wishes. If she’s interested, she should contact the attorney so the arrangements can be made.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

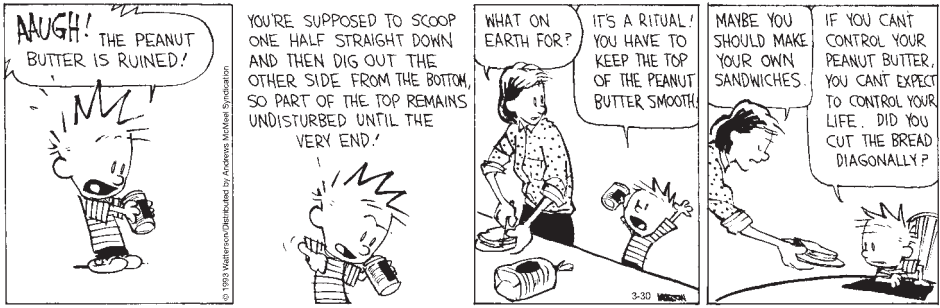
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

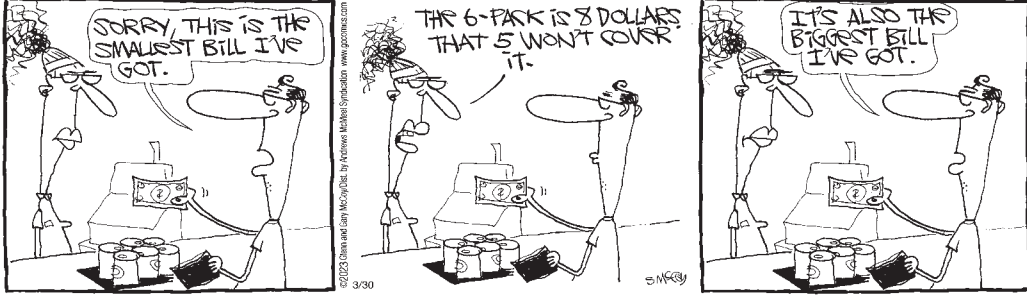
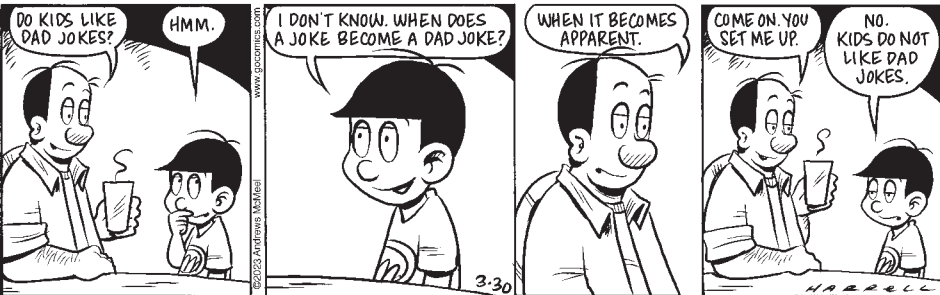


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 "Terrif!" 61 Shrill bark 16 "Uh-huh"

1 Energy 41 Sardonic 20 \$ dis-

4 Wound 42 Tempe sch. 21 Tortoise's

cover 44 Runway sights 22 Like

8 Track 46 Temporarily halt 23 Barbecue

circuits 50 Ref 27 Dict. info

12 Entirely 51 "Alfred" composer 29 Make

13 Tropical 52 No 30 Folklore

tuber 56 Borodin's "Prince" 31 Declares

14 Balm ingredient 57 Film buff's 33 Nursery

15 Post-season games 58 "Caught ya!" 35 Mountain

17 Drill 59 Society newbies 38 Jargon

18 Ever-green type 60 Herbal brews 40 Book

19 Disperse 24 Fr. holy woman 43 Ill-suited

21 "Night-hawks" painter Edward 45 Sound

25 "What — you doing?" 46 Uttered

26 Lemon 47 Incite 48 Elitist

28 Early PC software 49 Title for Helen Mirren

32 McNally partner 53 Greek mountain

34 Plead 54 Sushi fish

36 Forum wear 55 Chatter

37 Commer-cial cow

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katy Mixon, 42; Celine Dion, 55; Eric Clapton, 78; Warren Beatty, 86.

Happy Birthday: Donate your time to something you care about this year and make a difference. Your input will impact others and lead to long-lasting connections that will help you shape your life into something vibrant and inviting. Keep the momentum flowing, and use your energy to build a future that makes you proud. Distance yourself from harmful influences and overindulgence. Your numbers are 9, 11, 18, 24, 33, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Undesirable behavior will lead to emotional setbacks. Choose your words and path carefully. A step in the wrong direction will turn into a costly affair. Stay poised, focused and true to yourself, and the tables will turn in your favor. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Monitor what you agree to and know how to draw the line when necessary. A change of plans will encourage you to open your door and entertain the thought of hosting something that can benefit you and your friends. Romance is escalating. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Address situations carefully to avoid an uncomfortable outcome. You'll get a better reception if you use your charm and offer incentives to those who have something you want in return. Play to win but not at the expense of giving up too much. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Halt before making a mistake. Listen, reflect, keep what you hear in perspective and remain calm. Poor behavior won't solve problems or

give anyone the license to be mean or disrespectful. Protect yourself and avoid conflict. Play fair; choose peace and love. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're on a roll, but rethink your strategy before you take on too much. Delegate what you don't have time to complete to an expert. Protect your health, reputation and emotional well-being from anyone who tries to take advantage of you. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a chance and try something new and exciting. Surround yourself with people and projects that excite you, and participate in events that help you connect with individuals who share your insight and dreams. Romance is on the rise. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Embrace the positive and walk away from negativity. You have so much to gain if you are transparent and make it clear what you are trying to achieve and why. Channel your energy into finishing what you start, not arguing a moot point. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your inner thoughts to yourself. Focus on exploring your creative ideas and maintaining your status quo, regardless of what others do or say. Nurture the relationships that make differences in your life. Positive changes will occur. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your money to yourself, and go it alone if it makes more sense. Concentrate on your home, lifestyle and the ones you love in order to ensure you maintain a safe and positive environment. Personal growth is apparent if you keep interference at arm's length. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change of scenery will lift your spirits. Rearrange your furniture or clear a space for a project you want to pursue. Keep your thoughts to yourself and curb any inkling to overdo or spend. Make peace and love priorities. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Brainstorming will lead to progress. Turn your thoughts into something concrete. Refuse to let an emotional incident come between you and your plans. Slow down and do things right the first time, and success will follow. Avoid injury or sickness; don't take unnecessary risks. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Clear a space and sink your teeth into something you must complete. A few changes to your everyday routine will help you cut corners financially. Sharing expenses with someone or spending less on unnecessary items will ease stress. Romance is favored. ****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, impatient and giving. You are creative and friendly.

☾ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
	18				19		20			
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28		29	30
32			33		34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8	7				6	
9							2	3
3	1							
								5
						2		9
		4		5	1			
8	2				7		1	
	6	7		8	3	9		2
1		9			6	8		

Difficulty: ★★★

3-30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	3	4	5	6	9	2	1	7
5	1	2	7	4	8	9	3	6
7	9	6	3	2	1	8	4	5
6	2	3	9	5	4	7	8	1
9	8	1	2	7	6	3	5	4
4	5	7	8	1	3	6	2	9
2	4	9	1	8	7	5	6	3
1	7	8	6	3	5	4	9	2
3	6	5	4	9	2	1	7	8

Difficulty: ★★★

3-29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA (1927-2023)

Solution: 9 letters

N O G B R E A D T R A G O B P
S O I N B E T R A P E Z E H I
A S M Z I D A E L A W A O P A
B I E O R K N A V E U T L F Z
E L R R L U R M A T O U A I Z
H S U A T O C S Y J C L N L O
S T I M C S R O K E C U D M L
F A N I M G R A U E O W T R O L
L R N A E I R D N M I I E D A
E A A I E N A C N N F E A E L
S I V N A G R M Y A E F V L O
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T O R O N T O K L I M C I F L

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3/30

Actress, Andrea, Beauty, Bogart, Bread, Cinema, Dimitri, Dreams, Falcon Crest, Fernanda, Film, Flesh, France, Fuga, Giovanni, Giuseppina, Italy, Javier, King, Knave, La Lolla, La Romana, Law, Lead, Love, Luigia, Maria, Mercurzio, Milko, Model, OMRI, Pageant, Photojournalist, Piazzolla, Plucked, Queen, Sheba, Solomon, Star, Toronto, Trapeze, Wife

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Hawks beat Cavaliers, 120-118, help Bucks clinch Central



ATLANTA (AP)—Dejounte Murray sank three free throws with 2:14 remaining to give Atlanta the lead and added a fall-away jumper with less than a minute left to lead the Hawks to a 120-118 win over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

Murray led Atlanta with 29 points and Onyeka Okongwu added a season-high 21. The Hawks remained tied with Toronto, which beat Miami 106-92 on Tuesday night, for the eighth-best record in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers held out starting forward Isaac Okoro (left knee soreness) and center Jarrett Allen (strained right groin) and were led by Donovan Mitchell's 44 points. Mitchell, who surpassed 10,000 career points, tied LeBron James' Cavaliers record of 10 games of 40-or-more points in a season.

With Atlanta's win, NBA and Eastern Conference-leading Milwaukee clinched the Central Division title.

GRIZZLIES 113, MAGIC 108

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Desmond Bane scored 31 points and made 8 of 10 free throws down the stretch, leading Memphis past Orlando.

Bane's free throws thwarted a last-minute rush by the Magic, led by Franz Wagner, who ended up with 25



Atlanta Hawks guard Dejounte Murray dribbles to the basket as Cleveland Cavaliers guard Caris LeVert defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Atlanta. AP

points, including nine in the final 1:10.

Xavier Tillman had 20 points for Memphis, while Luke Kennard and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 16 points apiece. Jackson added 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Ja Morant, the Grizzlies' leading scorer, sat out the first night of a back-to-back with right thigh soreness.

Paolo Banchero finished with 24 points and Wendell Carter Jr. added 14 for the Magic.

HORNETS 137, THUNDER 134

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—P.J. Washington scored 22 of his career-high 43 points in the fourth quarter, and Charlotte rallied to beat Oklahoma City for its third straight win.

Three Thunder players scored career highs—Isaiah Joe with 33 points and Josh Giddey and Jalen Williams with 31 each. But Williams and Giddey each missed one of two free throws in the final 16 seconds, and Williams missed a 3-pointer at the

buzzer that would have forced overtime.

It was a potentially costly loss for Oklahoma City. The Thunder were looking to strengthen their position in the Western Conference play-in race despite being short-handed. Oklahoma City guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who entered the day fourth in the league averaging 31.3 points per game, sat out with a sprained left ankle.

Charlotte was short-handed, too. Terry Rozier (right foot discomfort) and Kelly Oubre

(strained right shoulder) sat out for the third straight game and Dennis Smith (sprained right toe) also did not play.

RAPTORS 106, HEAT 92

TORONTO (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored 26 points, Scottie Barnes had 22 points and a career-high 12 assists and Toronto beat Miami.

O.G. Anunoby scored 22 points, and Precious Achiuwa and Fred VanVleet each had 12 as Toronto won for the 10th time in 11 home games.

Tyler Herro scored 33 points and Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 12 rebounds as Miami lost its second straight. The Heat are 15-22 on the road.

Miami played without leading scorer Jimmy Butler, who sat because of a sore neck.

WIZARDS 130, CELTICS 111

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kristaps Porzingis had 32 points and 13 rebounds, and Washington boosted its flickering postseason hopes with a victory over Boston.

The Wizards, playing without Bradley Beal (left knee soreness) and Kyle Kuzma (right ankle sprain), pulled within 2 1/2 games of Chicago for the final play-in spot in the Eastern Conference. Washington has six games remaining in the regular season.

The Celtics had their three-game winning streak snapped. Jayson Tatum led Boston with 28 points, and

Jaylen Brown contributed 18 points.

Deni Avdija matched a career high with 25 points and added 10 rebounds for Washington. Monte Morris scored 19 points.

Warriors 120, Pelicans 109

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry had 39 points with eight 3-pointers, eight rebounds and eight assists, Jordan Poole added 21 points with consecutive layups that gave Golden State the lead early in the fourth quarter, and the Warriors rallied past the New Orleans Pelicans 120-109 on Tuesday night in a testy, playoff-like matchup in late March.

Klay Thompson scored 17 and hit five 3s to set a new single-season career high of 278, which leads the NBA.

The Warriors moved up a spot into sixth place in the crowded Western Conference standings, a half-game up on Minnesota and 1 1/2 games ahead of New Orleans. Golden State lost 99-96 at home to the Timberwolves on Sunday, so coming back from 20 down to win this one was key as the defending champions try to avoid the play-in round. The top six teams are guaranteed playoff berths.

Brandon Ingram had 26 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, Trey Murphy III scored 21 points and CJ McCollum added 15 for the Pelicans, who came in riding a five-game winning streak.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The Springfield Symphony Hall lists a capacity of 2,611. This is going to be a problem when the basketball world heads to western Massachusetts on Aug. 12.

Act surprised on Saturday when the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announces its class of enshrinees for 2023. Among the finalists: Dirk Nowitzki, Pau Gasol, Dwyane Wade, Tony Parker and Gregg Popovich. It's widely assumed that they'll enter the Hall this summer, in what will be a most star-studded event.

"We might need a stadium for that one," Brooklyn coach Jacques Vaughn said.

He's not wrong. More than 2,611 people will want to go to this. Probably more than 261,111 people will want to go to this.

It was never a question that the biggest names—the Nowitzki, Gasol, Wade, Parker group—would get into

Analysis: This Hall of Fame class could be an all-time great

the Hall.

The question was about Popovich. Not if. But when.

The NBA's all-time winningest coach, a five-time champion and the coach of the team that won Olympic gold at the Tokyo Games quietly rejected overtures from the Hall in the past. He wanted to see his best San Antonio players—Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili among them—go into the Hall first. He also wanted to see some coaches he respected most, like Rudy Tomjanovich, finally get the call first. Besides, it's not like people will look at Popovich with more reverence or respect after he gets his orange jacket from the Hall and officially gets to be introduced as a Hall of Famer.

"It will mean more to us as former coaches, former players, than to him I think," Vaughn said. "And that's not a slight at all. I think what he will enjoy is seeing his former players there, and people who he has touched in a tremendous way, families he's impacted for a long time be-

cause of his knowledge and his ability to share his knowledge and his ability to care for people."

More than 300 people have either played for or coached under Popovich in his time with the Spurs and USA Basketball. Nowitzki had more than 200 teammates. Gasol is beloved by teammates on two continents. The Miami Heat will probably send their entire staff up to see Wade give his speech. Add up the numbers, and we're getting toward that magic 2,611 number really quickly. And that doesn't even include, you know, the enshrinees' families and friends, along with the other living Hall of Famers.

"I know this much," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I'll be on a plane from wherever we are, and I'll be there."

Spoelstra will be coaching with USA Basketball this summer under head coach Steve Kerr at the Basketball World Cup, which takes them to the Philippines in August and September following

warm-up games in Las Vegas, Spain and Abu Dhabi. They'll be in Las Vegas until a few days before the Hall enshrinement, then the American contingent will head to Spain for games against Spain and Slovenia. Can't imagine they'll be very well-attended, not with Gasol going into the Hall that same weekend, with Slovenia's Luka Doncic probably going to pick being with Nowitzki over a pair of exhibitions, with Popovich set to be enshrined.

The Hall will give the enshrinees a number of tickets. It won't be enough for any of them. Popovich's guest list will be impossible to pare down, especially his innermost circle of confidants, who remain there even after they leave the Spurs.

Case in point: Utah coach Will Hardy. He left the Spurs to be an assistant in Boston under another former Spurs player and coach, Ime Udoka. But when Popovich was coaching the Olympic team, he picked some of the best

and brightest to be alongside him, Kerr, Spoelstra, Mike Krzyzewski and others for the process of getting ready. Hardy made that list.

"I've talked about imposter syndrome some this year—maybe never higher than those moments when you're sitting in a room and it's Gregg Popovich, Steve Kerr, Erik Spoelstra, Jerry Colangelo, Jay Wright, Lloyd Pierce, Ime Udoka, Coach K is in the room," Hardy said. "And you're going, 'How am I sitting at this table right now?' In a lot of ways it makes no sense. I felt like I was in the greatest basketball grad school class of all time. You almost can't write fast enough in terms of taking notes and listening."

So many of the pairings will be fitting. The Popovich-Parker duo and Wade faced off twice in the NBA Finals. Popovich-Parker and Nowitzki had Texas-sized battles for years. Nowitzki and Wade played in the finals against one another twice, each win-

ning a title on the other's home floor. Gasol played against them all for years.

They're all beloved. Wade has teammates already planning their trips to Springfield. Orlando coach Jamahl Mosley doesn't have his entire summer plan picked out yet, but he's going to Springfield for Nowitzki—who he coached in Dallas.

"The most wonderful thing about him is that being around him in public and going to events, I've never seen him turn people down or say no," Mosley said of Nowitzki. "Whether he's tired or doesn't want to do it, he's always going to go the extra mile to make sure those around him feel his appreciation for how much they've given to him. He might be one of the most humble Hall of Famers I've ever been around in that regard."

Mosley will have a seat for the big night. So will Hardy. So will Vaughn. How close they'll be to the stage is anyone's guess, but with this Hall class, there won't be a bad seat in the house.

Goodell: Commanders report to be released even if team sold



PHOENIX (AP)—Embattled Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder could

very well sell the franchise before an investigation into his organization's conduct can be complete.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said even if that's the case, any report will be made public.

"Yes, we've committed to releasing the findings," Goodell said Tuesday at the league's annual meetings.

Snyder and the Commanders are still under investigation by former U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, who was retained by the league to look into various aspects of the organization stemming from a congressional review into workplace misconduct that also included a referral to the Federal Trade Commission for potential business improprieties.

"We'll allow (White) to do her job and then we'll see where we are," Goodell said.

A group led by Josh Harris and Mitchell Rales and another group led by Canadian billionaire Steve Apostolopoulos have formally submitted fully financed bids for the Commanders, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Two people confirmed the bid from Harris. Both spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because details of the bid have not been publicly announced.

ESPN reported both bids came in at Snyder's \$6 billion asking price.

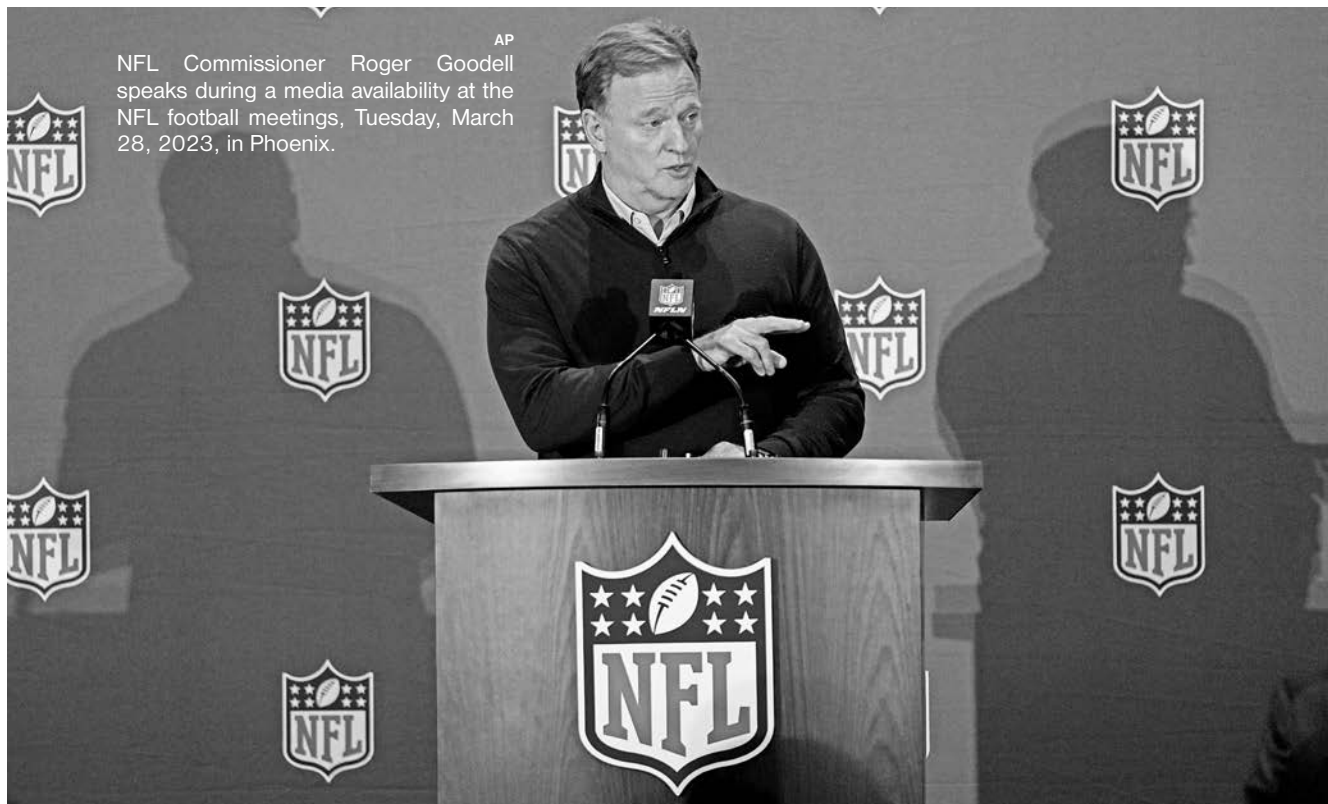
NO REVIEW FOR ROUGHING PASSER

There will be no assist from the replay booth when it comes to the NFL's roughing the passer rule.

The league's 32 teams declined to adopt a proposal from the Los Angeles Rams that would have allowed coaches to ask for a replay booth review of the often-controversial call. It was one of several potential changes discussed at the league's annual meetings on Tuesday.

Rich McKay — the NFL's Competition Committee chairman—said the league's brief 2019 experiment that allowed replay booth review of pass interference calls weighed heavily in the process. The rule was reversed in 2020 and highlighted the tricky nature of reviewing judgment calls on the field. "There are a lot of issues that go into it," said McKay, who is also the Atlanta Falcons CEO. "It is a dramatic and almost drastic change of officiating, taking it from the field, up to the booth."

"It wasn't a long discussion



AP
NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks during a media availability at the NFL football meetings, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Phoenix.

and then we voted and it did not pass."

The list of changes on Tuesday was relatively minor. Among them: Tightening rules on helmet blows by eliminating the "butt, ram, spear" language that McKay said allowed several players to escape fines.

NO FLEX

The NFL said it will not move to a flexible scheduling model for Thursday night games—at least for now.

The league has explored a method to adjust its Thursday schedule as the season progressed, giving teams a 15-day notice that their upcoming game would be moved from the weekend to Thursday.

"These national windows are for clubs who are playing well," said Brian Rolapp, the league's chief media and business officer. "We want to put the best teams in the best windows."

Rolapp said the flex proposal could come up again in May for a vote.

The group did pass a resolution that allows teams to play two Thursday games each season on short weeks.

ZERO HOUR

Most NFL players now have a new choice when selecting their jersey number—zero.

All players—excluding offensive and defensive linemen—can now select No. 0 if they choose.

Offensive linemen are still limited to the numbers between 50 and 79 while defensive linemen can select any number from 50 to 79 or 90 to 99.

New Jaguars receiver Calvin Ridley announced he would be among those who would wear No. 0 next season.

One of the more interesting rules suggestions was tabled. The Eagles had submitted a

proposal that would permit a team to maintain possession of the ball after a score by substituting one offensive play—a fourth-and-20 attempt from the kicking team's 20-yard line—in lieu of an onside kick-off attempt.

"There's not an appetite, yet, to have the onside kick go away," McKay said. "I think what people would rather talk about is ways to get the rate of recovery up."

McKay said that historically, onside kicks have about a 13-

14% success rate, but that number was down to 4% during the 2022 season.

GUARDIAN CAP EXPANSION

The use of the guardian cap—a padded addition that fits over a regular football helmet—will be expanded during the preseason to include running backs and fullbacks. Last season, offensive and defensive linemen, linebackers and tight ends used the cap.

The cap's use will also be

expanded to the regular season during practices that include contact.

Jeff Miller—the NFL's Executive Vice President of Communications—said concussions were down 52% for the position groups that used the cap last season when compared to the previous three-year average of the same groups.

LAFLEUR PREACHES PATIENCE

Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur is preaching pa-

tience as he prepares for the likelihood of having Jordan Love rather than Aaron Rodgers as his starting quarterback.

Rodgers, 39, has indicated he intends to play for the New York Jets in 2023. Although Rodgers remains under contract with Green Bay, the Packers and Jets are negotiating on a potential trade that would send the four-time MVP to New York.

That would cause the Packers to turn to Love, who has made just one career start since the Packers traded up to select him out of Utah State with the 26th overall pick in the 2020 draft. LaFleur cited Love's inexperience Tuesday while telling reporters that "we've all got to kind of temper our expectations for him."

"Certainly I think we're fooling ourselves if we think he's going to go out there and perform at a level to the likes of what Aaron Rodgers (has done)," LaFleur said. "This guy is a once-in-a-lifetime, a generational talent. And I don't think it necessarily started that way when he first started, you know. But he progressed into that. Like I said, it's going to be a progression."

"Hopefully we can surround him with enough people to help him perform at the best of his ability, and then we've got to do a great job as a coaching staff."

Sources: Two groups formally submit bids for Commanders

PHOENIX (AP)—Dan Snyder's departure from the NFL is moving closer to reality.

A group led by Josh Harris and Mitchell Rales and another group led by Canadian billionaire Steve Apostolopoulos have formally submitted fully financed bids for the NFL's Washington Commanders, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Two people confirmed the bid from Harris. Both spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because details of the bid have not been publicly announced.

The Harris/Rales group includes basketball Hall of Famer Magic Johnson. Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta also has been in the running.

ESPN reported both bids came in at Snyder's \$6 billion asking price. Snyder had yet to accept an offer when the league's finance committee met Monday so his future wasn't openly discussed.

"The information is very little to none in terms of the 31 of us (owners), and probably even the league office right now," Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay said.

That quickly changed in less than 24 hours.

Harris, who owns the NBA's

Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's New Jersey Devils, brought on Rales, a billionaire who also grew up in Maryland, just outside Washington, earlier this year. Johnson, who has ownership experience with Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers and others, later joined the group.

Apostolopoulos is a Toronto native who went to Harvard and is the founder of a private equity venture company.

Three-quarters of the owners would need to approve the sale. A vote could take place at the league meetings in May in Minnesota if Snyder accepts an offer soon, though it's more likely the process will take longer to finalize with both groups involving several owners.

Last fall, with multiple investigations ongoing into the team's workplace culture and finances, Snyder and his wife Tanya hired a firm to explore selling part or all of the team. That decision came two weeks after Irsay said there was "merit to remove" Snyder, which would take an unprecedented vote of 24 of the other 31 owners.

Selling the team would avoid going down that road, though Snyder has angered some of

his colleagues by demanding that owners and the league indemnify him against future legal liability and costs if he sells the team, a person told the AP.

"There would be no reason for us to give any sort of unusual indemnification," Irsay said.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Snyder's situation has changed their relationship.

"I think that it's a little more formal, but I think it's that way because of the various issues that are involved here," Jones said. "It's not 'lovey-dovey,' but it's not really strained in any way."

Snyder and the team are still under investigation by former U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, who was retained by the league to look into various aspects of the organization stemming from a congressional review into workplace misconduct that also included a referral to the Federal Trade Commission for potential business improprieties.

A spokesperson declined to comment when asked if Snyder had refused to speak with White, saying it's a confidential matter between the club and the league.

The sale allows Snyder to avoid speaking to White, but NFL Commissioner Roger

Goodell previously said the findings of White's report will be made public at the conclusion of her investigation. One person said the report will still be released even if Snyder sells the Commanders.

In a statement responding to news of bids being submitted for the Commanders, lawyers for more than 40 former team employees said their clients want an assurance from the league that the report will be released.

Attorneys Lisa Banks and Debra Katz said, "Allowing him to sell the team at what will certainly be a large premium without full accountability for his misconduct would be a travesty of justice."

Dozens of former employees detailing incidents of sexual harassment from their time with Washington beginning in the summer of 2020 prompted the first league investigation by Beth Wilkinson, which led to a \$10 million fine and Snyder stepping away from day-to-day operations for a period of time. A lack of a written report sparked the investigation by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform, which found Snyder played a role in the organization's toxic workplace culture.



The 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic will be held during Labor

Day weekend on Sept. 2, 2023, at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Tournament proceeds will be used to fund the education work of the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council, which focuses on schoolchildren, and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs. Tournament planning is underway and further details will be released shortly.

"We're hoping to raise funds to continue the MTEC's mission—that is to educate the community, especially the youth, about the importance of tourism," said MTEC acting chair Vicky Benavente. "Thanks to the great support of local businesses, we've been able to reach thousands of students since the MTEC was established in 2002."

MTEC recently conducted the MTEC Tourism App Challenge, inviting students to design an app for visitors to The

Marianas Tourism Golf Classic on Sept. 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sofia Del Rosario and Adriel Lenteja, second and third left, respectively, receive \$500 on March 8, 2023, at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School for first place in the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism App Challenge. Also awarded for third place and receiving \$200 are Bernadette Fleming and Carrika San Nicolas, center and third right, respectively. From left are MTEC board member Martin Duenas, Del Rosario, Lenteja, Fleming, San Nicolas, MY WAVE Club advisor Erica S. Evangelista and vice principal Nikita Mendiola.

Marianas. Entries were judged based on originality of the app idea, creativity of the app design, mobile user experience, and demonstration of indigenous cultures, traditions and/or values. Sofia Del Rosario and Adriel Lenteja of Tinian Jr./Sr. High won first place and \$500. Winning second place and \$300

was Roy Dip of Marianas High School. Third place and \$200 went to team leader Bernadette Fleming and teammate Carrika San Nicholas of Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority have also visited almost 20 public schools so far this school year to teach

students about the Marianas tourism industry and the work of the MVA. The 2023 MTEC

SFA hopeful postponed derby pushes thru on April 1

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's not an April Fools' Day joke, as the Saipan Fishermen's Association is looking at finally pushing through with its postponed 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby this April 1.

SFA president Tony Scragg said it was out of an abundance of caution that they postponed last Saturday's derby for a week as rough weather was expected last March 25.

"Our vice president and committee members made the decision based on rough waters and the potential for a small craft advisory. Safety is always first and foremost and that was the reason for the cancellation of the event last Saturday," he said. Fortunately, so far things are looking good for the derby to finally commence on April 1.

"The waters for this Saturday, April 1st, are looking great and

Tourism Summit also gathered more than 300 MY WAVE Club members on Jan. 19, 2023, at

the 29th Annual Mahi Derby is a go! Registration will happen at 4pm this Friday, March 31, at Smiling Cove Marina," said Scragg.

Originally, the SFA president was expecting 40 boats to take part in the derby, but he later amended it to, "but with calmer waters we could see more."

Scragg again thanked MarPac and Budweiser and Tan Holdings, both celebrating 50 years of business and community contributions to the CNMI, for sponsoring the 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby.

The crew who lands the mightiest mahi takes home \$2,500, while second and third place pockets \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively. Fourth and fifth places get in-kind prizes.

Aside from boat crew registration, there will also be a briefing on the event and rules

Kensington Hotel Saipan for a day of tourism-related topics and activities. (PR)

this Friday.

"As a reminder to the participants, we highly encourage boat owners to have up-to-date registration and safety requirements. If they are in need of having this done they can contact DPS Boating Safety located at Smiling Cove Marina," Scragg earlier said.

The registration fee for the 19th Annual

Mahi Fishing Derby is \$100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and \$25 for each additional angler.

Last year, *Salty Bandits 2* topped the tournament after netting a monster mahi weighing 21.1 lbs. Second place went to *Sweet Candy* and their 19.2-lb catch, while third place was the 18.1-pounder caught by *J3RM*.

For more information about the 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby, call Scragg at (670) 483-4597.



COLIN

From Page 20

and the duo upended top seeds Abel and Jeff Race, 4-1, 5-3.

Colin Ramsey attributed his twin championships in the two-weekend tournament to his new mental approach to the game of tennis.

"My nerves were under control and my shots were flowing smoothly. It was a good tournament for me. My brother and I worked well as a doubles team. We plan to team up again in future tournaments."

While he could name countless individuals who have contributed to his past and present success, he especially thanked Sports Hall of Fame inductee and national tennis coach Jeff

Race for continuing to foster the sport in the CNMI, allowing him and others to excel.

"I've seen firsthand how he is willing to fight for the longevity of tennis in the NMI. He has given so many kids the opportunity to grow with tennis, myself included. We are all lucky enough to have had him from the beginning," he said.

Meanwhile, Elliott went 3-0 in the women's open, beating Serin Chung (6-4, 6-0), Hannah Chae (6-2, 6-2), and Anne Lee (6-3, 6-0).

The 17-year-old senior at Grace Christian Academy said she's just happy she was able to overcome old and new opponents during the tourney.

"I am glad that I won the women's open title because my hard work paid off as I

played against a new player and was able to adjust to her game style," she said, referring to Chae as the new player.

As far as her play during the entire tournament, Elliott said she's pretty satisfied that what she trained for paid dividends.

"My ground strokes were working for me because that is what really helped me earn points during matches. I want to thank my parents for my success in this tournament. Additionally, a big thank you to coach Jeff for holding this tournament and making sure that all of our matches run smoothly. Also, to Bridge Capital for being the sponsor for this tournament as we cannot have this tournament without them."

In the men's 4.0, Cody Shimizu justified his No. 1 rank-

ing by turning back Quentin Ramsey, 6-1, 6-4.

Daniel Kang, meanwhile, went 3-0 in the men's 3.0, beating Hoyang Song (5-7, 6-2, 13-11), Matt Zhu (6-3, 6-2), and Chris Zhu (3-6, 6-4, 10-6).

In the women's 3.0, top seed Stella Choi nearly swept second seed Jin Hua, 4-0, 4-1, in the finals.

Paul Jang emerged the champion in the men's 4.0 after going undefeated in his matches against Gary Ramsey (6-1, 6-0), John Bradely (7-5, 6-1), and Edwin Simbulan (6-0, 6-1).

In the men's doubles 4.0, Ed Javier and Ronnie Lacbayo beat Bradley and Gary Ramsey, 6-0, 6-2, in the finals.

Mae Kim and Jocelyn Paano topped the women's

doubles 3.0 after beating Sadoako Arriola Yuko Kumada, 6-4, 6-2, and Isa Nishitani and Mei Rengil, 6-0, 6-2, in the championship.

Siblings David and Anna Kwon won the mixed doubles after an undefeated run in the tournament. They beat top seeds and another brother-and-sister tandem of Jun and Hoo Wang (4-1, 4-0), second seed Elliott and Simon Tang (4-6, 6-3, 10-7), and Shimizu and Irin Chung (6-4, 7-6(5)).

In the boys 16, unseeded Siwoo Lee upset No. 1 seed June Yu, 3-5, 4-1, 10-4, in the finals. Irin Chung also upset top seed Hoo Wang, 6-3, 6-2, for all the marbles in the girls 16.

Siwoo Lee also won the boys 14 after the second seed surprised top seed Nason Wes-

sel in the finals, 6-2, 3-6, 11-9.

No. 1 seed Lina Tsukagoshi reigned supreme in the girls 14 with victories over Sarah Lim (walkover), Stella Choi (4-1, 4-0), and Eunho Amy Park (6-1, 6-2).

Haoyang Song continued his rampage in the boys 12 after beating No. 2 seed Michael Jeon, 4-6, 6-3, 10-3, in the last game.

Emma Lang won the girls 12 tiara after beating Vivian Chung (6-3, 6-1), Selina Chi (6-0, 6-0), and Jenna Pascual (6-1, 6-1).

In the mixed 12, Michael Jeon and Vivian Chung walked the tightrope against Jinho Cody Park and Jenna Pascual (3-6, 6-3, 10-6) and Haoyang Song and Emma Lang (4-2, 2-4, 12-10) to win the division.

ALL

From Page 20

Napu Pangelinan bested the competition with a time of 9.42; second was the Turtles' D.K. Pino at 9.86; and third was the Kingfishers' Jiro Quindoza at 10.17 seconds. The Turtles' Jeno Pino came in first in Heat 2 with 9.03; the Geckos' Quido Jambor came in second with 9.25; and third was the Umangs' Iku Benavente with 9.53 seconds.

For the 12U girls 60m, first heat was won by the Turtles' Gabriella Ruben with a time of 9.60; the Geckos' Windsor Gross came in at 10.54; and the Turtles' Avani Ayuyu came in at 10.82. Heat 2 was dominated by the Geckos' Adalee West at 10.08; second was the Turtles' Haeilie Edwards at

10.33; and third was the Geckos' Leilani Ruszala at 10.58.

For the 200m event, the 9U boys Heat 1 was dominated by Gabriel Walsh with a time of 38.02; Joshua McDonald from SCS came in second with 38.73; and third was OES' Gene Tabhan at 41.67. SIS' Ezra West came in first in Heat 2 at 38.65; SCS' Lennox Sablan was second with 38.84; and third was OES' Mathew Ondra at 39.37.

Heat 3 was won by the Umangs' Dean Aldan at 35.1; WSR's Ramon Camacho was second with 39.99; and third was Carver Gross at 42.64.

For the 9U girls 200m Heat 1, Neveah Arriola from SIS came in first at 37.08; WSR's Kyra Tarkong came in second at 37.47; third was Madison Rabauliman. Heat 2's first place was OES' Maria Limes

at 40.25; second was WSR's Amelie Ogumoro at 41.28; and third was KobES' Kaya Deleon Guerrero.

The 12U boys 200m Heat 1 winner was Napu Pangelinan with 31.75; second was KobES' Anthony Aldan at 32.08; third was WSR's Joshua Lizama at 34.35. Quido Jambor came in first in Heat 2 at 32.44; Iku Benavente came in second at 34.16; and Jiro Quindoza at 36.65 came in third.

The 12U girls 200m Heat 1 first place was Windsor Gross at 37.94; second was OES' Lea Palacios at 38.84; and WSR's Rosa Acosta was third at 39.12. WSR's Roswele Castillo came in first in Heat 2 at 35.64; Leilani Ruszala was second at 37.28; and third was SIS' Lucy Woo at 37.81.

In the 9U boys 800m Heat 1, Ezra West came in first at 3:29.26; second was KobES' Cherokee Kin at 3:34.81; third was Jayden Concepcion at 3:38.36. Heat 2 was topped by KobES' Kaegel Taitano at 3:15.12; second was Gabriel Walsh at 3:29.60; and third was KobES' Richard Mungwaath at 3:36.48.

In the 9U girls 800m Heat 1, OES' Kaylen Taflinger came in first at 3:23.37; teammate Marianne Eugenio came in second at 3:31.55; and third was Kyra Tarkong at 3:58.78.

The 12U boys 800m Heat 1 first place was Quido Jambor at 3:03.07; Alexander Salundagit from OES' was second at 3:18.77; and third was Napu Pangelinan at 3:24.04. The 12U girls 800m Heat 1 first place was Leilani Ruszala at

3:31.65; second was Windsor Gross at 3:32.52; and third was OES' Erricka Long at 3:38.49.

In the 9U boys long jump event, Eumond Peter's best attempt was 2.53m and bagged first place; second was Lennox Sablan at 2.18m;

MHS

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the knees of the unsuspecting Manta Rays. However, the Manta Rays did not go down without a fight as they almost forced a tie-breaking third set, but fell short as the Dolphins pulled out on top, 21-18.

The junior varsity MHS 2 team, consisting of the rotation of Josh Binghit, Denn Biscocho, Alex Kim, Raja Sevugan, Noah Palacios, Jo-

seph Ito, Jiale Dai, Anthony Deleon Guerrero, Dylan Salalila, and Rondelle Apostol, blasted past the Torchbearers, 21-4, 21-14.

Earlier in the afternoon, MHS 3 fell to SSHS 2 in a nail-biting three-set game, 21-17, 22-20, 15-12.

In other results, Grace Christian Academy defeated Kagman High School, 21-15, 21-18 and Saipan International School won against Mount Carmel School, 21-15, 21-16.



Hawks beat
Cavaliers, 120-118,
help Bucks clinch
Central
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20 THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Colin, Hye Jin rain aces on drizzly Sunday



Ramsey



Elliott

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rain may have abbreviated the matches at the 2023 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic last weekend, but that didn't stop top seeds Colin Ramsey and Hye Jin Elliott from claiming victory anew in their respective men's and women's open divisions last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Top seed Colin Ramsey beat third seed Jonny Jackson, 6-1, 6-1, in the finals of the men's open.

Ramsey earlier handily defeated No. 4 David Kwon, 6-0, 6-1, and Jackson turned back No. 2 Tomas Abel, 6-4, 6-3, in their respective semifinals.

In the men's open doubles, the 23-year-old Ramsey partnered with brother Quentin

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MHS teams win 2 of 3 game in boys v-ball start

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Marianas High School teams won two of three games in the season opener of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 Tuesday night at the

lively and jam-packed MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins' varsity team, MHS 1, took down rival Saipan Southern High School in two sets, while MHS 2 discarded Agape Christian School also in two sets. MHS 3 fell to SSSH 2 in a three-set fight to the finish.

The Dolphins' starting six

rushed into the opening game with momentum as they won a volleyball championship just last week in a local league.

Mokyang Joseph Kim, Jerome Manzon, William Ariola, Juruel Magtalas, Dylan Mister, and John Justo brought their A game into the season opener as they swept the Manta Rays off their feet, 21-9 in the first set.

Fake plays at the net and deception by the Dolphins' top spikers and blockers buckled

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LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School varsity team's Mokyang Kim, left, and Juruel Magtalas, center, block a spike from Saipan Southern High School's Vutheson Arachige during their game in the season opener of the NMIVA-PSS Boys High School Volleyball League Tuesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.



All schools athletics returns

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 kicked off Tuesday with three weeks of qualifiers for the 12U and 9U divisions in various athletics events at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Group 1 schools consist of Saipan International School, Koblerville Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School, San Vicente Elementary School, Seventh Day Adventist School, Oleai Elementary School, and Northern Marianas International School.

They competed in Event

A athletics events of 60m, 200m, 800m, and long jump.

The 9U boys 60m Heat 1 was dominated by KobES' Lellan Daniel with a time of 10.97; second was OES' Makai Cutting at 11.35; and third was William Otto Dunn IV from SCS with a time of 12.92 seconds.

In Heat 2, the far-from-slow Turtles' Eumond Peter raced to first at nine minutes flat; second was the Umangs' Dean Aldan at 9.10; and third was Jayden Concepcion, another Turtle at 10.06 seconds. Heat 3 was dominated by the Geckos' Gabriel Walsh at 10.26; the Turtles' Jacob Bor-

ja came in second at 10.58; and Geckos' Carver Gross at 10.87 seconds.

In the 9U girls 60m Heat 1, the Kingfishers' Amelei Ogumoro clocked in first at 11.29; second was the

Guardians' Amethyst Winkfield at 12.67; and third was the Umangs' Anjelene Lucas with 12.89 seconds. Heat 2 was the Turtles' Breaanne

Ilo in first place with a time of 10.76; second was fellow Turtle Madison Rabauliman at 11.91; and third was the Umangs' Emma Lee at 12.67.

In the 12U boys 60m, the Umangs' all-around athlete

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Elementary school students led by Saipan International School's Leilani Ruszala, right, run in the track during the first qualifier of the NMA/PSS All School's Athletics 2022-2023 last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.